

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

MAY, 1999

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 5

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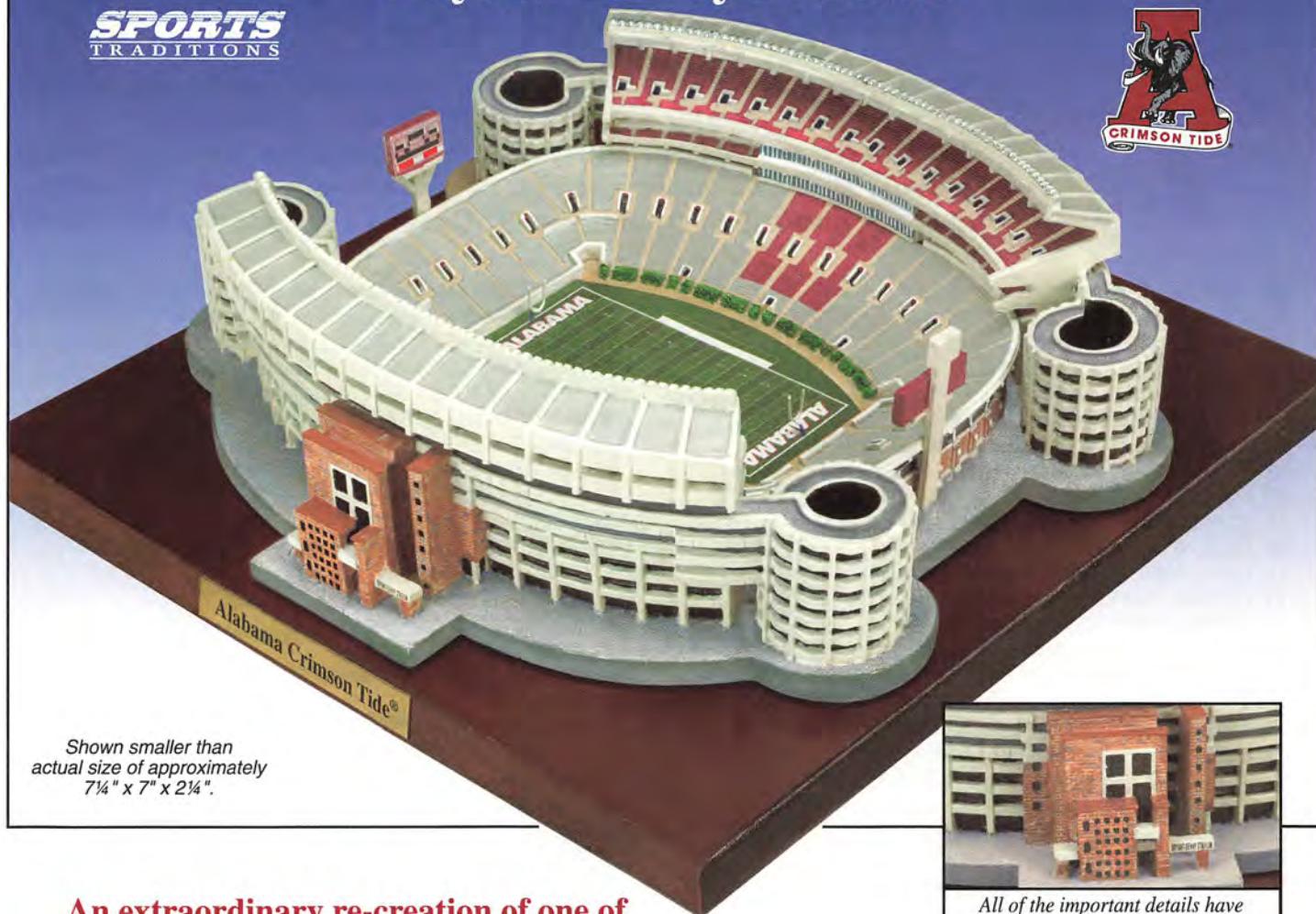
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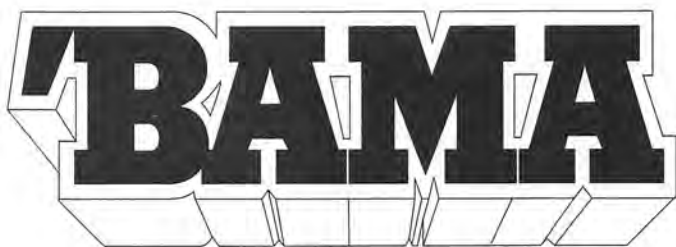
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

MAY, 1999

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 5

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Barry Fikes Photo



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Head Football Coach Mike DuBose said that if his football team came out of spring practice a more physical team than the one that started then spring training would be judged a success. For that reason and more DuBose was pleased with what his team accomplished.

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Senior Patrick Morgan came out of spring practice as the leader to replace graduated All-SEC punter Daniel Pope. But Morgan has some competition.

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Alabama hasn't put an offensive lineman into the National Football League in a number of years, but that should change after the 1999 season. Chris Samuels, the Tide's starting left tackle since midway through his freshman season, should be among the nation's best.

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The Crimson Tide Gets Physical

by Kirk McNair

DuBose sees offensive and defensive improvement in a "good" spring training period

Mike DuBose had one primary goal for his football team when spring training got under way in mid-March. When it ended in mid-April the Crimson Tide head football coach wanted his squad to be "more physical." And, he said, it was. Therefore, "We had a good spring," he said. "I said before practice started that if we were more physical at the end it would be a successful spring," the coach said.

That doesn't mean it was perfect. "We're not as physical at all positions as I would like for us to be, but as a football team we are more physical. I think we can run the ball better and I think we can stop the run better than we did last year."

DuBose said, "I like this football team an awful lot. I like the work ethic. I like the attitude. I like this coaching staff. We're obviously not where we want to be, but we are much closer than we were at this time a year ago or this time before we started spring practice. All that makes me pleased with the progress we have made."

If there is an area of disappointment, it is the offensive line, and that means it is a real disappointment because DuBose expected the Tide to have a much-improved and much deeper offensive front this year. DuBose said he had talked to a number of coaches around the country who express the same concern. He said the consensus opinion is that spring practice, broken up as it is

Spring Training Award Winners

Each spring Alabama football players have the opportunity to win various awards. The Lifter of the Year is based on actual competition in the weight room during the off-season workouts. The Dixie Howell Memorial Award, which goes to the most valuable player in the A-Day Game, and the Dwight Stephenson Award, which goes to the most valuable lineman in the A-Day Game, are selected by members of the press covering the annual Crimson-White game. The other awards are selected by the Alabama football coaching staff based on the entire spring training period. Here are this year's award winners:

- Lee Roy Jordan Headhunter-Linebacker Miguel Merritt
- Jerry Duncan "I Like To Practice"-Tailback Ahmaad Galloway
- Billy Neighbors Most Improved Defensive Lineman-End Shawn Draper
- Paul Crane Most Improved Offensive Lineman-Tight end Terry Jones
- Bobby Johns Most Improved Defensive Back-Strong safety Phillip Weeks
- Ray Perkins Most Improved Receiver-Flanker Eric Locke
- Johnny Musso Most Improved Offensive Back-Tailback Shaun Bohanon
- Woodrow Lowe Most Improved Linebacker-Darius Gilbert
- Ozzie Newsome Most Improved Freshman-Linebacker Marvin Constant
- Sylvester Croom Commitment to Excellence-Defensive tackle Cornelius Griffin
- Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant Best Walk-on-Strong safety Gary Barnes
- Lifter of the Year-Offensive tackle Bart Raulston
- Dixie Howell Memorial Award-Flanker Jason McAddley
- Dwight Stephenson Award-Defensive End Shawn Draper

with off days and with restricted contact days, is particularly hard on offensive linemen trying to attain consistency. There were also particular problems for Alabama with tackle Bart Raulston and guard (and potential center) Griff Redmill suffering injuries and with guard Sam Matthews having to miss the last week because of a family illness. Still, DuBose saw improvement in sev-

eral of the back-up performers, notably tackle Lanis Baxley, guard Kenric Lott, center Marico Portis, and Raulston when he was able to perform. "I think we will come out with a good offensive line in the fall," DuBose said. "Whether it will be by the first game or the third game, I don't know, but I feel our offensive line will be a much improved unit. And that's where it starts if

To Cap Off Football Fan Day

Becky Hopf, Alabama's associate media relations director in the athletics department, shares this story:

Shaun Alexander was easily the most sought-after autograph for Alabama's football Fan Day which was held at Coleman Coliseum on Saturday prior to the A-Day football scrimmage at Bryant-Denny. In fact, in addition to having already assigned two media relations staff members to look out for Shaun at his table, Alabama had to call in a police officer as well to help with crowd control.

In addition to signing hundreds of the special Shaun Alexander posters that Alabama issued to launch his Heisman campaign, rabid fans were shoving everything in front of the Tide player from photos to programs to t-shirts or whatever.

According to Tide media relations student assistant Jonathan Smith

of Huntsville who was sitting with Alexander, midway through the ordeal, Alexander stopped what he was doing and, in mock exasperation cried out -that he'd just signed his own Alabama baseball cap. (Shaun had taken his hat off his head before the fans came in and placed it on the table, but with so many items shuffling in front of him, he hadn't realized he'd grabbed his own cap).

Alexander glanced at his autographed "Shaun Alexander, #37 Roll Tide" cap and looked at Smith and said, "Now what am I going to do with this? I can't wear it with my name on it."

And Smith piped in, "But I can." Alexander handed the cap to Smith and now the Alabama sophomore possesses a cap the Heisman candidate and certainly future NFL player not only autographed but actually owned and wore.

we're going to be a championship football team."

He said an emphasis of spring practice was the line of scrimmage. While he said Bama would be better on offense, he is almost ecstatic about the defensive front. "I know we're better defensively than we were at the end of the season and at this time last year," he said of the defensive line. DuBose, whose background is in defensive line coaching, said, "I can't fathom a team having better defensive linemen than we have." The starting four, ends Kenny Smith and Kindal Moorehead and tackles Cornelius Griffin and Jamie Carter, received accolades, but so did back-ups Shawn Draper, Reggie Grimes and Kelvis White.

Indeed, the entire defense came in for praise. "I feel good about where we are defensively," DuBose said. "I feel real good about the intensity. I think we have better talent and better depth. And it's helped that we made a change in systems, allowing our guys to play the game a little more and not be so gap-conscious, just letting them play and be more instinctive. I am excited about the defense."

He said the biggest improvement came in the linebacking corps, where, after Travis Carroll was lost for the spring with a shoulder injury, all three starters were new. Canary Knight won out in a fierce battle to be number one ahead of Marvin Constant at middle. Miguel Merritt also came from number two to take the lead at weakside linebacker ahead of Victor Ellis, with Chris Horne also in the picture. While Darius Gilbert was not really challenged at strong-side, the play of converted tailback Adam Cox there was a pleasant surprise.

DuBose was particularly pleased with the mental aspects of linebacker play, calling plays against a very complicated offense.

Alabama intends to play much more zone defense than last year and DuBose thinks that will make the secondary more aggressive. While DuBose is concerned about depth in the secondary, he was pleased with the play of front-liners at cornerback (Reggie Myles, junior college transfer Milo Lewis, Kecal Bailey, and converted tailback Shontua Ray) and at safety (Tony Dixon at free, Marcus Spencer and Phillip Weeks at strong). He expects incoming freshmen to have a chance to play in the secondary.

While DuBose tends to emphasize the defense, the eyes of most Alabama fans in the spring were on the offense. And, particularly, on the quarterback position. For the past couple of



Most interest in Alabama's spring football training was on the quarterback battle. When spring practice ended things were about as they started with Andrew Zow (right) number one and Tyler Watts close behind him. Alabama Head Coach Mike DuBose said the Tide would go into the 1999 season planning for both to get playing time.

Barry Fikes Photos

years, Bama has had something of an unusual quarterback policy. Will this year be different? While DuBose confesses to being a "one-quarterback coach," which is true of almost all coaches, Bama will go into the season with two quarterbacks. Soph Andrew Zow, who started eight games last year, will be number one, but he'll get about 60 per cent of the snaps in practice and share playing time with redshirt freshman Tyler Watts, who will get about 40 per cent of the practice chances. After "two or three games" DuBose and the staff will evaluate this plan.

The problem is in practice snaps. Generally, a team wants to give its first team quarterback 75-80 per cent of the practice repetitions. Quarterbacks Coach Charlie Stubbs doesn't feel the 1999 plan is a problem because Zow and Watts have similar capabilities and, so, the game plan is the same regardless of the quarterback.

It was all one, big happy family with DuBose, Zow and Watts all saying that Watts had improved and made Zow a better quarterback and Zow had improved and made Watts a better quarterback. "It is not a controversy," DuBose said. "It's a good situation. It is a very competitive situation. When we get this type of competition at each position, then we'll contend for that 13th national championship."

Although help from a freshman class is expected at the wide receiver positions, and even though Shamari Buchanan was held out of most work, DuBose said "I feel real good about the six guys we've got there. We've got some speed and some guys who will make plays." Those six are Buchanan, Eric Locke (who missed the A-Day Game with a slight knee injury), Freddie Milons, Jason McAddley, Sam Collins and Tim Bowens."

1999 Alabama Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Series Record
Sept. 4	Vanderbilt	Nashville	Bama leads 54-19-4
Sept. 11	Houston	Birmingham	Bama leads 8-0-0
Sept. 18	Louisiana Tech	Birmingham	Bama leads 3-1-0
Sept. 25	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa	Bama leads 6-3-0
Oct. 2	Florida	Gainesville	Bama leads 17-12-0
Oct. 16	Ole Miss	Oxford	Bama leads 37-7-2
Oct. 23	Tennessee	Tuscaloosa	Bama leads 42-31-8
Oct. 30	Southern Miss (Homecoming)	Tuscaloosa	Bama leads 29-4-2
Nov. 6	LSU	Tuscaloosa	Bama leads 41-16-5
Nov. 13	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	Bama leads 67-13-3
Nov. 20	Auburn	Auburn	Bama leads 36-26-1

DuBose said the biggest surprise on offense had been the improvement of tight end Terry Jones. "I think we've finally found a tight end that we can throw the football to and who can block at the point of attack. He can be a real asset for our quarterbacks."

Because of the performance of Jones, DuBose said, the fullbacks had less responsibility for making the blocks usually required of the tight end. "That meant they could just play fullback," DuBose said. He had praise for both Dustin McClintock, the returning starter, and Marvin Brown.

It's no secret that Alabama's tailback in 1999 will be Shaun Alexander. However, Alexander was held out of most scrimmage work in the spring. That enabled Bama to find some back-up tailbacks (although if past history is any indication, proving oneself a capable tailback doesn't guarantee playing time except for the starter). DuBose said that the performance of Shaun Bohanon was "exciting" and said that Alabama would frequently play two tailbacks together in 1999. He said those combinations would be made up of Alexander, Bohanon, Ahmaad Galloway (who DuBose also complimented for spring work), and little Arvin Richard, who was injured and missed most work and who, DuBose said, would be used only as a spot player at tailback and only when there were two tailbacks in the game.

As is frequently the case, the biggest unknown coming out of spring practice is the special teams. Although there was a little punt-catching work by

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Richard, Milons, Myles and Locke in practice, there was no real practice time on punt returns and coverages and kickoff returns and coverages. There was some work on place-kick protection and block.

As far as the specialists, the two most likely sure-thing performers are Patrick Morgan and Bradley Ledbetter. Morgan will probably be the punter, but his sure-thing spot is holder on place-kicks. And Ledbetter is the snapper on both place-kicks and punts.

Morgan appears to have held off the chal-

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lenges of Lane Bearden, primarily, and Brian Barlow and Jason Kellen to be the punter. Ryan Pflugner, the 1998 place-kicker for most of the year, finished ahead of Mark Wisniewski and A.J. Diaz for that job.

However, the majority of work on special teams will be done in August when newcomers arrive to help fill out coverage and return teams. And what the kickers do on their own over the summer could have a drastic effect on the depth chart at place-kicker and punter.

Guess At An Alabama Spring Football Depth Chart

Although Alabama does not issue an official depth chart, here is a guess at how the Crimson Tide football team would line up following spring practice. This depth chart does not include everyone who is on the squad. It also lists 12 positions on offense since Bama is frequently in a set with three wide receivers. Middle linebacker Travis Carroll, a starter last year, was held out of drills with an injury, and thus is listed third on this depth chart. There was basically no work on punt and kickoff returns and coverages in the spring.

Offense

Split End—Shamari Buchanan, Eric Locke, Jay Stubbs
Left Tackle—Chris Samuels, Lanis Baxley
Left Guard—Griff Redmill, Sam Matthews, Carlos Stennis, Ray Marshall
Center—Paul Hogan, Marico Portis
Right Guard—Jason McDonald, Kenric Lott, Michael Barfield
Right Tackle—Will Cuthbert, Bart Raulston, Chris Ray
Tight End—Terry Jones, Theo Sanders, Johnovan Morgan
Quarterback—Andrew Zow, Tyler Watts, Luke Tucker, Jonathan Richey
Tailback—Shaun Alexander, Shaun Bohanon, Ahmaad Galloway, Arvin Richard
Fullback—Dustin McClintock, Marvin Brown
Flanker—Tim Bowens, Freddie Milons, Rob Egan
Slot—Jason McAddley, Sam Collins, Dennis Bonga

Defense

Left End—Kenny Smith, Reggie Grimes, Shaun Williams
Left Tackle—Cornelius Griffin, Kelvis White, Derek Sanders
Right Tackle—Jamie Carter, Todd Whitmore, Rob-E Staten
Right End—Kindal Moorehead, Shawn Draper
Strongside Linebacker—Darius Gilbert, Adam Cox
Middle Linebacker—Canary Knight, Marvin Constant, Travis Carroll
Weakside Linebacker—Miguel Merritt, Victor Ellis, Chris Horne
Left Cornerback—Milo Lewis, Kecal Bailey, Shontua Ray, Marcus Slay
Right Cornerback—Reggie Myles, Chris Reier, Steven Harris
Strong Safety—Marcus Spencer, Phillip Weeks
Safety—Dennis Dixon, Jason Jones, Gary Barnes

Special Teams

Punter—Patrick Morgan, Lane Bearden, Jason Kellen, Brian Barlow
Snapper—Bradley Ledbetter, Kenny Smith, Tripp Powell

Placekicker—Ryan Pflugner, Mark Wisniewski, A.J. Diaz, Chris Kemp
Holder—Patrick Morgan, Chris Reier

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/MAY '99

McAddley Steals The Show



by Kirk McNair

White pulls mild upset as
trick plays pay dividends

When Alabama Head Football Coach Mike DuBose and his staff put together the teams for the annual A-Day Game, wide receiver Jason McAddley was a member of the Crimson squad. However, on Thursday, the final practice before the annual Crimson-White contest, another wide receiver, Eric Locke, suffered a mild knee injury and it was decided to hold Locke out of the A-Day Game. In order to give both teams enough receivers for the three possible wide receiver positions that would be used in the game (split end, flanker and slot), a couple of changes had to be made. Tim Bowens was shifted from the White squad to the Crimson team and McAddley went from the Crimson to the White.

What a break for Dabo Swinney, who was head coach of the White squad. McAddley did everything but take up tickets. (There weren't any tickets to take up since the crowd of 32,500 was admitted without charge, but if there had been tickets it's reasonable to assume McAddley would have been working the gates.) The sophomore from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, ran and passed and caught passes and led the White to a mild upset victory, a 23-10 decision.

McAddley was named Dixie Howell Memorial Award winner, which is voted by the press as the outstanding player in the game. He won the award for more than just his primary job, which is pass receiving. McAddley did have three receptions for 24 yards. But he also had two rushes for 22 yards, including a three-yard touchdown run, and he completed a 38-yard pass to Sam Collins that set up that touchdown.

DuBose said, "Jason is a track guy and we've got to get him to play at his speed. He doesn't do that all the time. That's true of guys at several positions."

He said that a handful of players stood out in the A-Day Game, noting McAddley, Collins, and defensive linemen Reggie Grimes, Shawn Draper and Kelvis White. None of those would have been listed on the first team prior to the A-Day Game.

In the game, the Crimson squad took a 7-0 lead on a four-yard run by Marvin Brown that capped a game-opening 70-yard drive. The big play in the drive was an Andrew Zow pass to Shaun Bohanon that went for 37 yards. The Crimson increased the lead to 10-0 when Ryan Pflugner, who had kicked the extra point, hit a 37-yard field goal.

The White got McAddley's touchdown and extra point by Mark Wisniewski before intermission, and then the White took the lead for good on the first series of the second half.

One of the bright spots for the White team in its 23-10 A-Day win over the Crimson squad was the play of linebacker Adam Cox, the game's leading tackler.

Barry Fikes Photo

Although Tyler Watts completed a couple of key passes in the drive and then capped the 70-yard march with a four-yard keeper, the big play in the drive was another so-called trick play, tailback Ahmaad Galloway passing for 32 yards to Collins. A.J. Diaz missed the extra point. Wisniewski hit on a 34-yard field goal later in the quarter. In the fourth quarter, walk-on quarterback Jonathan Richey directed a final score with walk-on tailback Clifton Carter scoring from six yards out for the White. Diaz kicked the extra point.

Those trick plays by the winning White squad were called by the young A-Day head coach of the team, Dabo Swinney. The Crimson was coached by Ivy Williams.

The White and Crimson squads had only a short time to work as separate units, a brief period following the Thursday practice before the April 17 game. Swinney said, "I put the halfback pass in after practice. I put in a couple of trick plays. Some of them worked, some of them didn't." As a good head coach, Swinney gave credit to the players. "Our guys made the plays," he said.

McAddley said he had never thrown a pass in a game, high school or college. "Zow better watch out," he added.

Actually, Collins made excellent moves to come back for both the long passes he caught on the gadget plays.

Zow completed only four of 13 passes for 70 yards and had one pass intercepted. Watts was good on only five of 12 passes for 58 yards. Bohanon had 12 rushes for 48 yards, but had a long run of only eight yards. Galloway's five runs from scrimmage netted only six yards with a long rush of only two yards. The fullbacks ran pretty well, both picking up 18 yards, Dustin McClintock on four carries, Marvin Brown on five.

White defensive end Reggie Grimes was named winner of the Dwight Stephenson Most Valuable Lineman Award as he had three primary tackles and two assists and turned in three tackles for losses totaling 24 yards. He was joined as a defensive leader by linebackers Victor Ellis, who had four tackles and an assist, and Darius Gilbert, who had two tackles and two assists, and by safety Tony Dixon, who had three tackles and broke up a pass. For the Crimson, linebacker Adam Cox had seven primary tackles and an assist and linebacker Miguel Merritt six tackles and an assist.

One thing DuBose was happy about in the spring game is that there were no additional serious injuries. Carlos Stennis, who had recently moved from defensive tackle to offensive guard, suffered a knee sprain early in the game, but said afterwards that it did not appear surgery would be required and that he would be back working out within two months.

Tailback Shaun Alexander was held out of the game, as he was all of the spring scrimmage work for precautionary reasons. In addition to Locke, those missing the game with injuries were linebacker Travis Carroll, tailback Arvin Richard, wide receiver Shamari Buchanan, tight end Jamie Hunter, and place-kicker Chris Kemp.

A-Day Statistics

Crimson Individual

Rushing	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Long
Bohanon	12	51	3	48	0	8
Brown	5	18	0	18	1	7
Douglas	4	14	2	12	0	9
Zow	3	10	4	6	0	9
McSorley	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tucker	2	0	3	-3	0	0
Milons	2	1	6	-5	0	1
Beard	1	0	10	-10	0	-10
Totals	30	94	28	66	1	9

Passing	Att-Comp-Int	Yards	TD	Long
Zow	13-4-1	70	0	37
Beard	6-4-0	28	0	10
Tucker	3-2-0	0	0	1
Totals	22-10-1	98	0	37

Receiving	No.	Yds.	TD	Long
Bohanon	3	37	0	37
Stubbs	1	18	0	18
Eller	1	10	0	10
Bowens	1	8	0	8
Butler	1	8	0	8
Milons	1	7	0	7
Tate	1	6	0	6
McSorley	1	4	0	4

Punting	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long
Bearden	3	114	38.0	42
Kellen	2	74	37.0	39
Barron	1	31	31.0	31
Totals	6	219	36.5	42

Fields Goals	Att.	Made	Long
Pflugner	1	1	27

White Individual

Rushing	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Long
McAddley	2	22	0	22	1	19
McClintock	4	18	0	18	0	6
Young	3	15	3	12	0	9
Carter	3	13	2	11	1	7
Moore	1	7	0	7	0	7
Galloway	5	7	1	6	0	2
Richey	1	2	0	2	0	2
Marshall	1	2	0	2	0	2
Chambers	1	1	0	1	0	1
Christian	1	0	0	0	0	0
Watts	7	4	37	-33	1	4
Totals	29	91	43	48	3	19

Passing	Att-Comp-Int	Yards	TD	Long
Watts	12-5-0	58	0	26
McAddley	1-1-0	38	0	38
Galloway	1-1-0	32	0	32
Chambers	1-1-0	14	0	14
Richey	1-1-0	11	0	11
Totals	16-9-0	154	0	38

Receiving	No.	Yds.	TD	Long
Collins	2	70	0	38
Galloway	1	26	0	26
McAddley	3	24	0	15
Christian	1	14	0	14
Vickery	1	11	0	11
McClintock	1	9	0	9

Punting	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long
Morgan	3	122	40.7	46
Barlow	3	108	36.0	45
Totals	6	230	38.3	46

Field Goals	Att.	Made	Long
Wisniewski	1	1	34

Team Statistics

	White	Crimson
Total First Downs	13	13
By Rushing	5	7
By Passing	7	4
By Penalty	1	2
Total Yards	146	220
Total Plays	51	46
Average Gain Per Play	2.86	4.78
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	6-55	4-25

Score By Quarters:					
Crimson	7	3	0	0	10
White	0	7	9	7	23

Scoring:
 C-Marvin Brown, 4 rush (Ryan Pflugner kick)
 C-Pflugner, 27 field goal
 W-Jason McAddley, 3 rush (Mark Wisniewski kick)
 W-Tyler Watts, 4 rush (kick fail)
 W-Wisniewski, 34 field goal
 W-Clifton Carter, 6 rush (A.J. Diaz kick)

Crimson Defense

Tackles: Ellis (4 primary tackles, 1 assist), Grimes (3-2), Gilbert (2-2), Staten (3-0), Harris (2-0), Nall (2-0), Knight (2-0), White (2-0), Barron (1-1), Moorehead (1-0), Randolph (1-0), Small (1-0), Flax (1-0), Moore (0-1), Weeks (0-1), Okoye (0-1), Smith (0-1), Sanders (0-1)
Tackles For Loss-Yards: Grimes (3-24), White (1-10), Staten (2-5), Moorehead (1-3)
Passes Intercepted-Yards Returned: None
Fumble Recovery: None
Passes Broken Up: Dixon 1, Knight 1, Moore 1
Quarterback Pressures: Smith 1

White Defense

Tackles: Cox (7 primary tackles-1 assist), Merritt (6-1), Bryan (2-3), Draper (3-1), Spencer (3-1), Constant (1-3), White (3-0), Myles (2-1), Griffin (1-2), Whitmore (2-0), Townsend (1-1), McFadden (1-1), Smith (1-0), Vance (1-0), Williams (1-0), Bobo (0-1), J. Jones (0-1), Slay (0-1), P. Jones (0-1), J. Carter (0-1), Hollie (0-1)
Tackles For Loss-Yards: White (1-10), Draper (2-7), Myles (1-6), McFadden (1-3), Merritt (1-1)
Passes Intercepted-Yards Returned: J. Jones (1-0)
Fumble Recovery: Griffin 1
Passes Broken Up: Constant 1, Bobo 1
Quarterback Pressures: Draper 1

Coaching Staffs

White Head Coach: Dabo Swinney
Assistants: Neil Callaway, Ronnie Cottrell, Charlie Harbison, Jeff Rouzie, Kevin Sherrer and Terry Jones.

Crimson Head Coach: Ivy Williams
Assistants: Ellis Johnson, Charlie Stubbs, Lance Thompson, Will Friend, Thomas Hill, and Steve Martin.



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RIVALNET

Trying To Fill Big Kicking Shoes

by Donald F. Staffo

Senior leads competition to replace All-SEC punter

Daniel Pope left some pretty big kicking cleats to fill. Pope, Alabama's punter the past two years, was the All-Southeastern Conference punter in 1998. The battle to replace him began in earnest this spring and it has attracted some talented competitors.

The early leader in the battle to win the punting job appears to be Patrick Morgan,

Pope's back-up a year ago. An all-state punter at Shades Valley High School, the 6-0, 183-pound Morgan walked on at Alabama four years ago but has yet to see action for the Crimson Tide. Others competing for the position are Lane Bearden, Jason Kellen and Brian Barlow.

"I don't believe that we've got a guy who can do the job that Daniel Pope did as a senior," said Ronnie Cottrell. Cottrell, best known as Alabama's assistant head coach and recruiting coordinator and tight ends coach also tutors the Crimson Tide kickers. "But," Cottrell added, "I do believe that we've got some guys who can do what Daniel Pope did his junior year, and that is be a consistent punter." As a senior, Pope had 66 punts for a 44.0 average, including a long punt of 65 yards against Arkansas and a top one-game average of 48.8 on four punts against Tennessee. Pope finished second in the nation in what is considered the key statistic for a punter: net punting. Net punting is the number of yards punted minus the total yards those punts are returned. The net field position gain on his 66 punts last season was 40.8 yards. As a junior Pope had punted 57 times for a 43.1 average with a long punt of 60 yards.

However, there is more to being a punter than just being able to kick for distance. Cottrell said that a punter must catch the ball and complete the kick in an operation time of 1.2 seconds. "Often in high school and sometimes in junior college kickers are allowed to work a little slower, so the speed factor is the biggest transition for kickers coming into SEC football," Cottrell said. "They must kick the ball on time."

For Cottrell, "A good punt is 45 yards and get a fair catch, or average 40 to 45 yards with no return (yardage). That's our goal. If we do that every time, then we've been extremely positive."

As for who will fill Pope's shoes, Cottrell said, "It's a tight battle right now. I think that we have a person here who can do the job at Alabama. We just have to determine who that person is."

While the ideal situation would be for Alabama to have a clear-cut choice of punter at the end of spring practice, Cottrell indicated that the job is still up for grabs, though it appears that Morgan may have the inside track. "I have been pleased with Patrick Morgan," Cottrell said. "With Patrick it's just a matter of developing more consistency and continuing to improve the times we get the punt off."

One thing about punters is that they can work on their own. All of the punting candidates will work during the summer. In the past, it has not been unusual for a summer work ethic to propel one candidate into the lead when pre-season drills begin in August.

Patrick Morgan has waited for his opportunity to be the Alabama punter, and that chance is finally coming as he approaches his fifth and final season.
Barry Fikes Photo



On the other hand, punters have been known to over-work in the summer and report dead-legged.

Morgan has patiently waited in the wings and now feels it's time to take center stage. "This is something that I have been waiting for," he said. "My role at Alabama has always been as a back-up. I realize that it is my time to step up. I feel like I have to."

Morgan averaged 39 yards a punt for Shades Valley and in 15 games as a senior in 1994 allowed a total of only 22 return yards, an indication that he gave his team plenty of time to cover. Morgan, who said that he has a much stronger leg now than he did as a prep player, has changed from the three-step approach he used in high school to a two-step approach in order to get the ball in the air quicker. The change to two steps is a common transition prep punters have to make when going to college because a three-step approach will often result in a blocked punt. Morgan has a goal of averaging 45 yards per punt with 4.5-second hang-time. "For me those are benchmarks, but I don't know how realistic they are," he said.

Morgan has always been able to boot the ball. He agrees with Cottrell that a lack of consistency has been his biggest problem. "It's not really always how far you kick the ball, but how often you kick it far and high enough," he said. "That

has been my biggest problem so far, but I think that I'm starting to get more consistent. I still have good days and bad days, but I'm trying to have more good days."

Despite being the heir-apparent, Morgan realizes that the job is not automatically his. "I feel it's not locked down," he said. "I have to go out and perform every day. I do not have the strongest leg on the team. That's why I have to be a little more consistent."

Punting is an important element in the game, one that Head Coach Mike DuBose mentions frequently. He listed "punter" as one of the key elements to be determined in spring practice. DuBose believes in field position and in having a punter who can provide positive yardage for Bama when the Tide is forced to punt.

The position requires more than someone who can just kick the football. DuBose wants an athlete in the position, someone who is able to handle bad snaps and someone who can fake the punt and throw or run. A former defensive star on Shades Valley teams that went 35-4, Morgan had 16 pass interceptions, proof that he has that necessary athletic ability.

Behind Morgan is Bearden, a 6-0, 180-pound walk-on redshirt freshman from Pelham High School in Birmingham. Bearden, who was the most valuable player for the Alabama team in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game a couple of years ago because of his excellent punting, was also a wide receiver as

a prepper. He caught passes from a pretty good high school quarterback, Tyler Watts. "I have been excited and feel good about Lane Bearden," said Cottrell. "He has shown a very strong leg and shown a lot of improvement. Like Patrick, he has the ability. Lane certainly can be an outstanding punter before he leaves The University of Alabama." Indeed, Bearden has shown the strongest leg in practice, but he has not shown the consistency that has Morgan in front.

Cottrell said that Kellen, a 6-4, 210-pound junior from Tuscaloosa Central, and Barlow, a 6-2, 215-pound sophomore from Mendenhall High School in Harrisonville, Mississippi, who came to Bama from junior college, are still in the hunt. Barlow missed the second half of work with an injury during the spring.

Morgan said that he feels his experience is his biggest advantage over Bearden and that so far he feels he has demonstrated more consistency than Kellen.

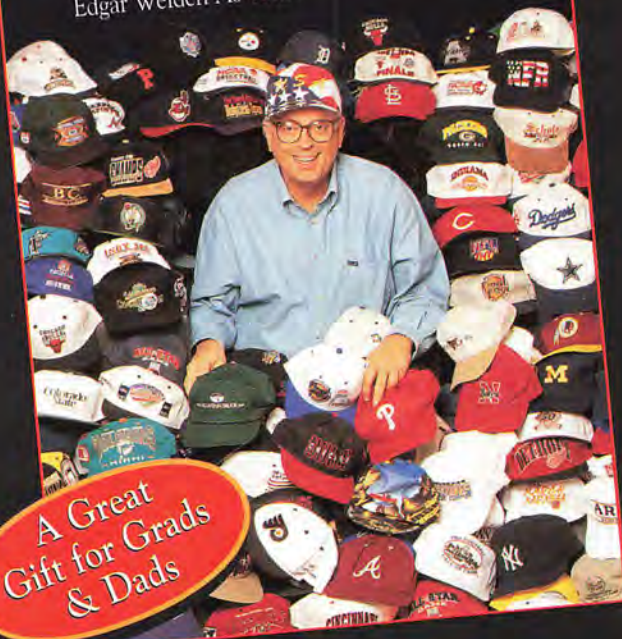
"I am really excited about the competition," Cottrell said. "I believe that we can find a punter who can do the job out of this group. We have a senior, two juniors and a freshman competing, and all of them have shown that they have the ability to do the job. What none of them has is game experience. We can correct everything with practice reps except that experience, and that's going to have to come next fall."

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He Takes Care Of Business

by Kirk McNair

Senior offensive tackle
can be one of best ever

It's not unusual for stars to get star treatment. Shaun Alexander, who is being pushed for the Heisman Trophy, got it this spring. The star tailback was held out of Alabama's full speed scrimmage work. But for another offensive star, like Alexander an upcoming fifth-year senior, it was business as usual.

Chris Samuels is accustomed to work. Last year the All-Southeastern Conference offensive tackle played 732 of a possible 744 offensive snaps in 11 regular season games. He was also in on another 48 special teams plays. And this spring, despite being hailed by Head Coach Mike DuBose as a man who could be the best offensive lineman in the SEC, Samuels was in the trenches each day.

DuBose had two reasons for not giving Samuels much time off in spring training. "One," he said, "we didn't have many tackles to work with. But to be honest, probably the main reason I always wanted to have him out there is I worried about the quarterbacks when he wasn't in there."

DuBose had something else to say about Samuels this spring. He said that in addition to Alexander, there was only one player who had his job "sewn up," and that was Samuels.

Samuels said, "It felt good to hear that coming from the head coach, but I know I still have to handle my business. I know if I slack off I could lose my job. I do my business every day."

Samuels, who has been the Alabama starter in 30 consecutive games, mans left tackle, the position of greatest importance to a quarterback. That's because most teams put their best pass rusher on the defensive right side and because most quarterbacks are right-handed and, thus, have their back to that side in passing situations. Additionally, while a tight end can line up on either the right or left side, it seems that most often the tight end is on the right side, and so the left tackle has no outside help on his blocks.

Samuels said, "I know going in that in all probability they (the opponents) are going to put the emphasis on (pass) rushing where the left tackle is blocking. But I think it's the natural position for me. I'm comfortable there and used to it. I've done it for a long time."

After a brief stint as a receiver and tight



Left tackle Chris Samuels, an All-Southeastern Conference player last year as a junior, is expected to be one of the nation's finest as a senior. He has high goals for himself and for his Crimson Tide football team.
Barry Fikes Photo

end in his very early junior high school football days, Samuels has been a left tackle since his junior high school season at Shaw High School in Mobile. Although Samuels is right-handed, he has made the adjustment to playing with his left hand on the ground in his three-point stance.

Samuels made it through spring practice, all 15 of those practices, in typical fashion, in the trenches every hour of every day. There was a flurry of concern late in the spring when it was reported that he had played most of last year with a shoulder injury and that he would undergo surgery immediately after spring practice. Well, that was true, but a bit alarmist. Samuels has typical lineman shoulder, meaning he has some clutter in the joints. Following spring practice, Samuels was to get a little spring cleaning, an arthroscopic procedure to scrape the joint. DuBose pointed out, "If this was something done during the week during the season, he'd be able to strap it up and play in the game that week."

Offensive linemen have long been considered among the most anonymous of football players. Samuels accepts that. "I don't get in the highlight films like the wide receivers and quarterbacks and tailbacks," he said, "but I try to do what I can. I know if I don't have a good day I'm going to make Coach Callaway's highlight film."

Neil Callaway is the Tide's offensive coordinator and, more specifically for Samuels, the offensive line coach. "I don't really need Coach Callaway to tell me if I've done well or poorly," Samuels said. "I know when I walk off the field if I've done my job." He said that if he could play every game like he played last year's game against Auburn, a 31-17 Crimson Tide victory, that he would feel he had performed well.

While Samuels has played well enough to earn first team All-SEC honors, he expects to be better in his senior season. One thing he wants to do is get his weight up. He's been up to 310, but, he said, "That was in my red shirt freshman year (1995) and that

was Taco Bell weight." The 6-6, 295-pounder will remain in Tuscaloosa this summer on a strength program with Coach Terry Jones. He wants to be at 305 pounds or more during the 1999 season and wants to improve his upper body strength.

Samuels said that the off-season weight program prior to spring practice was designed to produce strength and bulk, but said "While we (the linemen) were stronger, we were a little slack in conditioning. Before we start back in August, we've got to continue to get bigger and stronger, but we've also got to be in better shape."

If Samuels can play at 305 as a senior, that will be a gain from a playing weight of 285 the past two years. "Twenty pounds would be a big difference," he said.

Samuels said that he felt both he and the entire offense had a "pretty good" spring practice. He said, "Having the same coaching staff, the same offensive plan, and a lot of returning starters made it a very smooth spring."

The player doesn't hesitate to compliment Bama coaches. "I think we have an outstanding coaching staff and a great plan," he said. "I think we're going to have a great passing game, and you know we're going to have the runners."

Samuels said, "I take pride in protecting for the quarterback and seeing a pass completion or in seeing Shaun running downfield. If we get that done, it usually means that five offensive linemen did their job, so I get a lot of satisfaction from that."

He said, "I think the line is the primary ingredient in offensive success. You can have the greatest tailback in the nation—which, by the way, we do—but if you don't open up holes, he'll look like an average back. The best quarterback in the world can't throw if he's on his back or always having to run for his life. The key is the offensive line, and I think we'll get the job done this year."

One reason Samuels expects the offensive line to be improved in 1999 is the practice it had in the spring against the Tide's defensive line. "There's a lot of talent over there," Samuels said of the defenders. "I think going against each other as much as we did made both sides better and I think we'll be ready for anyone." He said, "The only way to dominate a football game is to win the line of scrimmage. We have to take control early on both sides and dominate. Last year we had games where we didn't perform like we need to. I'm trying to push myself and the other guys because I know it's going to take a lot of work to get to where we want to be."

And the 1999 goal. "We have a lot of young guys, and the goal for them is the SEC Championship," Samuels said. "But I won't be satisfied with anything less than the national championship."

Chris Samuels had a goal to play college football at Alabama. He said he was not a big-time prospect. "I got a letter or two my junior year, but I think the main thing that happened is that people came to our (Shaw High School of Mobile) games to see Kelvin Sigler, and I was lucky that gave them a chance to see me. I'm thankful I had the opportunity to play with him." Sigler also starred with Bama, the starting safety and captain before finishing his career with an injury midway through last season.

Samuels said, "I grew up on Alabama football. This school has such a great football tradition. I felt it was the place for me and I'm glad I made the decision I did."

At some time, few college football players at a school with the tradition of Alabama don't have visions of a professional football career. For most players, that hope ends long before the draft. Samuels is prepared if he doesn't continue football. He has gone to summer school every year and he is on schedule to graduate in December with a degree in human performance.

However, unlike most college football players, Samuels will almost certainly be living his National Football League dream. And, Samuels said, "It has been a dream of

mine for a long time. And now I can see light at the end of the tunnel to get there."

DuBose said, "One problem we've had in recruiting offensive linemen recently is we haven't put an offensive lineman into the National Football League in many, many years. We've put linebackers and defensive linemen and everything else, but no offensive linemen. I think Chris Samuels has a chance to be as good as there is. I really think he will be the best offensive lineman in the Southeastern Conference this year."

The Tide head coach pointed out, "The best offensive guard ever to play in the NFL, John Hannah, came from Alabama. The best center ever to play in the NFL, Dwight Stephenson, came from Alabama. And we think that Chris Samuels one day might be the best offensive tackle ever to play in the NFL."

Callaway, who has averaged putting an offensive lineman into the NFL in each of his 23 coaching seasons, has no doubts that Samuels will be playing on Sundays in future years. Callaway thinks Samuels can be as good as any he has coached and make it to the NFL. "If," as every coach would say, "he plays up to his potential." Chris Samuels hasn't given any indication in anything he has ever attempted that he won't play up to his potential.



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The Linebackers:

Newcomers Moved Up This Spring

by Chris Olds

Although the linebacker corps will be new, it is expected to be very good

Even after losing a pair of starters and leading tackler from last year's team, it appears Alabama has the makings of future All-Americans at linebacker. And, partly for that reason, national championship contention appears to be in the future for the crew of Coach Mike DuBose and his staff.

It says so on paper.

"We made them all write down their goals in the spring; their personal goals, their team goals and their academic goals," Inside Linebackers Coach Jeff Rouzie said. "We made them put it on paper to refer to, and every one of them has high expectations for this football team."

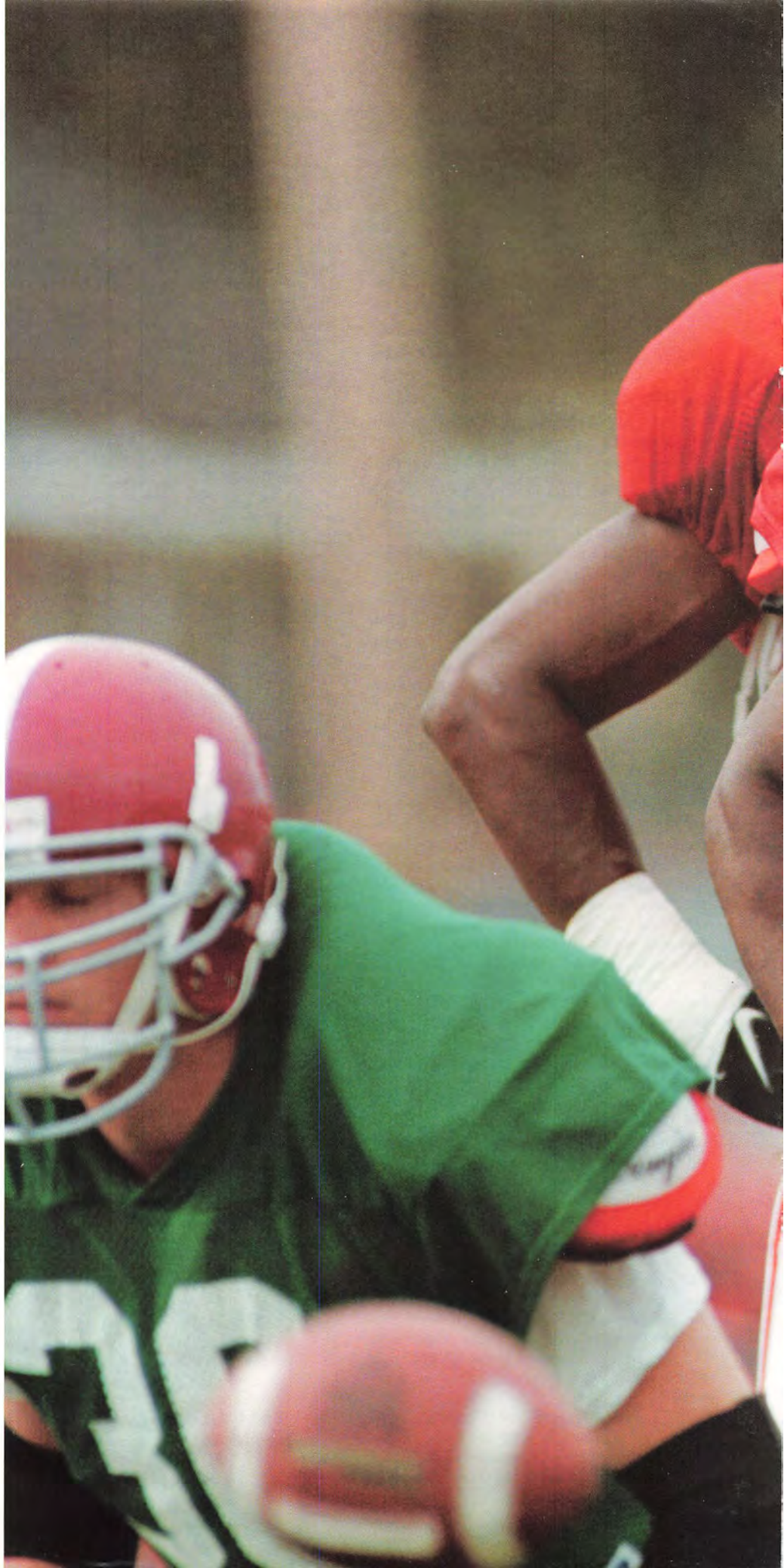
In a program that has produced All-America linebackers like Lee Roy Jordan, Woodrow Lowe, Thomas Boyd, Barry Krauss, Cornelius Bennett, Derrick Thomas, and Dwayne Rudd, one might think the success of the Alabama linebacking corps would be a given. It's not that easy. It takes a combination of recruiting and development. For that reason, hopes are high, and those hopes are based on what has been shown on the field, not just put on paper.

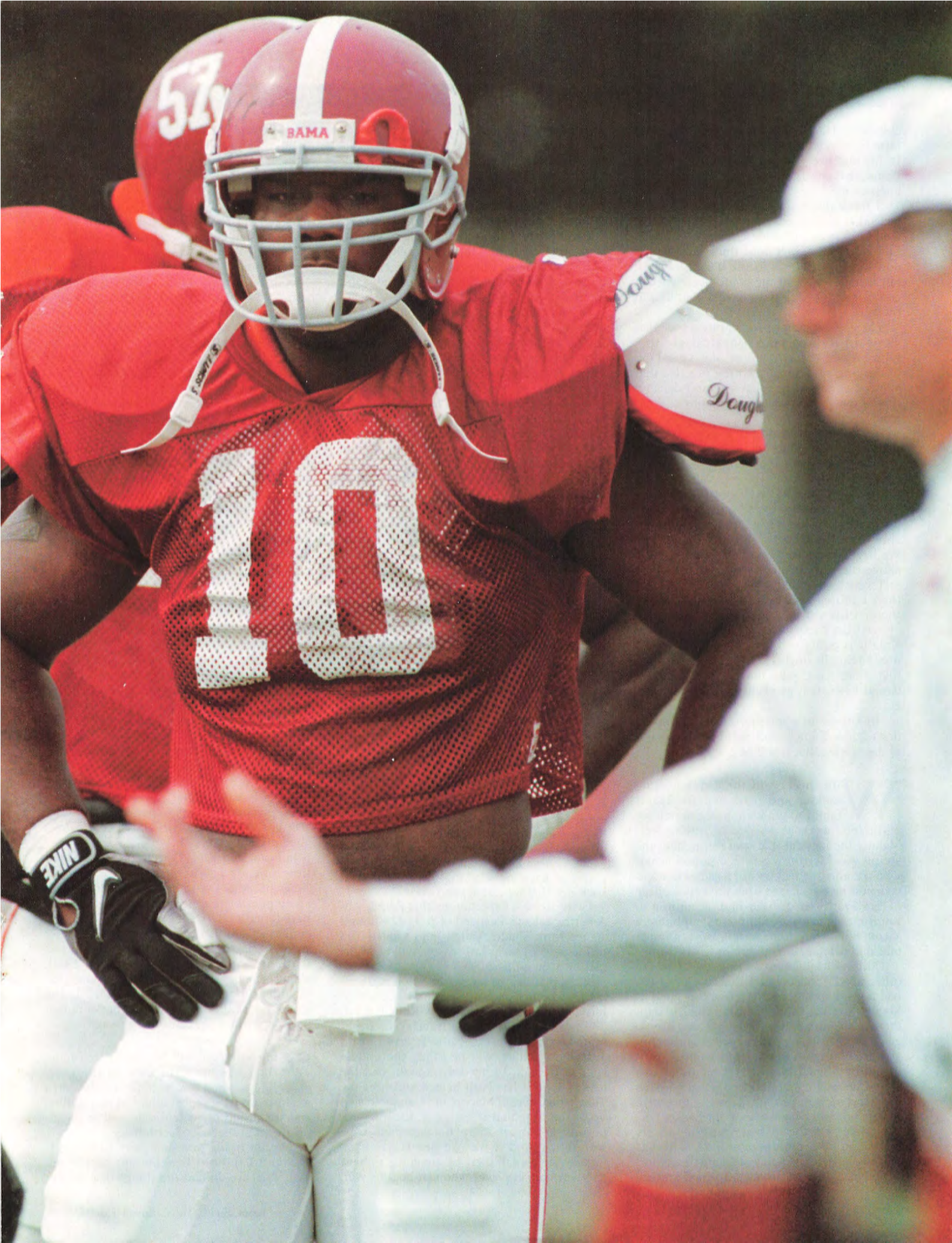
A key to Alabama's defense, indeed the Crimson Tide team, will be Sam, Will and Mike. In football nomenclature, those are strongside linebacker, weakside linebacker, and middle linebacker.

A leaner, deeper, younger and quicker linebacking corps will take the field September 4 in the Tide's opener against Vanderbilt, and among them will be six returning lettermen, including spring standouts Miguel Merritt at weakside linebacker and Darius Gilbert at strongside linebacker. Middle man Travis Carroll, an All-Southeastern Conference candidate and the lone returning starter at linebacker, is recovering from April surgery. He missed spring practice in order to have surgical repair to a torn rotator cuff and hairline fracture to his

Miguel Merritt, a junior college transfer who saw limited action in 1998, was one of the top spring performers and is counted on for starting duty in 1999. He won the prestigious Lee Roy Jordan Headhunter Award in the spring.

Barry Fikes Photo





shoulder blade, but is expected to return to form in plenty of time for practice in August. In his absence, Canary Knight and Marvin Constant emerged as excellent middle linebackers.

"I think this team can legitimately look at goals that include championships," Defensive Coordinator and Outside Linebackers Coach Ellis Johnson said. "I don't think we'd be the odds-on-favorite to win the championship, but I think we are at the point where we can compete for it. Our guys have a goal to win the SEC."

"The goals that aren't wins or losses are that we want to be a more physical group," Johnson said. "Mike (DuBose) did a good job of creating situations in spring practice that allowed us to practice that way and demand that of our players—to be a more physical defense."

At the end of spring practices, DuBose praised the play of his linebackers.

"I saw some people making plays, particularly the linebackers," DuBose said. "Marvin Constant, Darius Gilbert, Victor Ellis, Miguel Merritt; those guys were impressive. Our linebacker play has really improved. It's probably the most pleasing thing of the spring. We have good speed and what we are doing allows them to run and make some plays."

"Overall, we have more speed at linebacker than I thought we would have. Guys like Victor Ellis and Miguel Merritt have done better than I expected, and I think Canary Knight is going to be a help when he gets used to middle linebacker. I've been surprised that Adam Cox, who moved from tailback, would have such good instincts at linebacker."

In answer to a question, DuBose said, "I don't know if linebacker will be the strength of the defense, but it will be good."

With the loss of the Tide's leading tackler and team captain Trevis Smith to graduation, the search for a starter began at weakside linebacker. Making the plays at that spot throughout the spring was Merritt, a 6-0, 220-pound senior who recorded 14 tackles in 11 games last season after he transferred from the City College of San Francisco. Behind him, according to Johnson, stands 6-2, 225-pound sophomore Victor Ellis, who began spring work number one, and 6-1, 212-pound junior Chris Horne.

"Miguel, right now, is way ahead of the other two," Johnson said. "Chris Horne has had a good spring, but not nearly as good as Miguel Merritt. I think Victor (Ellis) is right there in the mix, but he has got a long way to go as far as being a physical player and a consistent player. If we started tomorrow it would be Miguel Merritt and the other two would be rotating around for the back-up. To me Merritt was probably, over the entire spring, our best play-maker at linebacker."

Rouzie said the loss of Smith obviously hurts, but the emergence of Merritt has helped alleviate the pains of losing the senior.

"Trevis Smith was an awfully good football

player for us," Rouzie said. "If you go back and look at the films from last year, which we did, his number came up quite a lot. He made a lot of plays for us. But with Miguel Merritt, Victor Ellis and Chris Horne, I don't think we are going to miss a beat there."

Rouzie said Merritt's emergence is likely due to his being more comfortable in his surroundings after making the transitions to Division I football from junior college, transitions both on the gridiron and in the classroom.

"Miguel is really starting to come into his own right now, and when you come from a junior college that's a mighty big adjustment," Rouzie said. "(He was) really just trying to get acclimated. They (Merritt and fellow transfer Knight) are comfortable now, and are really starting to turn themselves loose and play the way they are capable of playing. That's a big change, both athletically and academically and socially, coming from San Francisco to Tuscaloosa."

At strongside linebacker, Johnson said Darius Gilbert, a 6-2, 220-pound sophomore, is the apparent successor to Steve Stanley, a four-year letterman for the Tide. Behind him is converted tailback Adam Cox, a 6-1, 208-pound sophomore.

"On the strong side, Darius is head and shoulders above the rest," Johnson said. "I think there will be people coming in the program this fall who will have a chance to challenge for the second spot, but Adam Cox would have that right now."

Gilbert played in 10 games for the Tide last season, recording 13 tackles.

"I expect Darius Gilbert to be a very solid Southeastern Conference linebacker," Johnson said. "He's had enough experience last year, and he has enough talent that by the time we open that first game, he should be very solid. Whether he becomes a dominant linebacker, one who can make enough plays to effect the game, is all up to him. He is smart enough, he is talented enough, and his experience level is the only drawback. When he becomes a physical player, he is going to be the type of linebacker who can affect the game. I think aside from that, the rest of the players I have are working to be good solid back-ups that we can depend upon."

There are also expectations that *Parade* All-America Saleem Rasheed, a 6-3, 225-pound signee from Shades Valley, who totaled 155 tackles and 13 sacks last season, will be in the picture at Sam this fall.

In the middle, the biggest question mark remains whether or not Carroll will return to form, or whether senior Canary Knight, a 6-2, 224-pound junior college transfer, or freshman Marvin Constant, a 6-1, 239-pound Tuscaloosa native, will be filling the middle spot in the fall. Either way, Rouzie said the loss of Carroll has both helped and hurt the Tide. "It has forced Marvin and Canary to step up to the plate and it has given them an opportunity," Rouzie said. "Both of them have responded, and if we can get Travis back healthy for the fall then we are going to have another football player who can help us win."

That's a good situation, and it is the first time in quite a while that we have had a little depth at the linebacker position."

Rouzie said it is likely that Carroll will return, while Johnson said he is prepared to continue without the junior if Carroll needs a redshirt season.

"That's going to take a little while, but he's the kind of kid who is going to work extremely hard to get ready," Rouzie said. "Football is important to him, and I'd be very surprised if he wasn't ready to go in the fall."

"The surgery was successful, but when (rehabilitation) is over, that's when the clock starts," Johnson said. "How soon he can get the strength back in the shoulder where it is going to be safe for him to play is important. If everything goes to the best-case scenario, he will be ready to go. If he is not and has to be redshirted, we have to be prepared for that."

Like Rouzie, Johnson said the loss of Carroll has helped the Tide work its younger players into the mix, which will add to their experience come game time. "It always gives another player a chance to work hard and get better," Johnson said. "Anytime you can get your players in there working together, it builds cohesiveness and some communication. It is never good to be switching lineups as you go, but the positive is that the young players have gotten a tremendous amount of work. It has been a pleasant surprise to find out that they can handle it if they have to."

Rouzie said Constant and Knight worked hard in the spring. "We are really pleased with both of those guys," Rouzie said. "Marvin gives you a big physical guy in the middle, where Canary gives you a little more speed. He's a guy who can go sideline to sideline."

Rouzie said Constant needs to progress with his handwork and his leverage blocking, but said the skills will come with time. "Marvin is a big strong guy who just doesn't have any playing experience," Rouzie said. "He has got the strength and speed to be a good middle linebacker."

Johnson said Knight's move to the position from outside has helped capitalize on his skills and said Constant has blossomed with an emphasis on zone coverage. "I think we have found Canary a better home. He is more comfortable in there," Johnson said. "Another surprise has been Marvin. He's the person that comes to mind the most when I talk about zone coverage as opposed to man, letting him run to the football instead of having gap responsibility. He plays a lot better in that philosophy, and has come a long way."

Zone coverage will be emphasized more than has been the case in the past. Johnson and Rouzie both said the corps will mix up its responsibilities of play calling and setting up the defense, as well as its adjustments at the line of scrimmage.

"We are trying to install more zone coverage, and I think it benefits our personnel, with what we do and the things that we can



Darius Gilbert, an upcoming sophomore, showed glimpses of his ability in limited action as a true freshman and could be a star for the Crimson Tide at outside linebacker. He was spring winner of the Woodrow Lowe Most Improved Linebacker Award. Barry Fikes Photo

do," Rouzie said. "We have spread the signal calling out. When Travis Carroll was healthy, he could handle it. With young guys in the middle we have let Darius Gilbert and Adam Cox really handle the huddle."

"In the past we have had the Mike linebacker call the huddle and the line of scrimmage," Johnson said. "We will try to give the huddle control to the Sam linebacker. That will leave the Mike linebacker to worry about setting the defense once the offense comes to the line. That reduces what each one has to do, and that has helped them."

Johnson said the adjustment to zone coverage and a lessened focus on gap control have helped the linebackers through the spring. "That has allowed them to free up and make some plays, and I think that has brought their confidence and their enthusiasm along," Johnson said.

Johnson said the play-calling and adjusting to changes in the offense have been challenging for the young linebackers, but said it will come with time. "These guys are not used to doing that, and it is something we will continue to work on," Johnson said. "As offenses create motion and movement, we will learn to adjust. We can't be robotic and paralyzed by things on the other side of the ball. When

things move we have to be able to adjust without losing our aggressiveness."

Johnson also said he is looking for leadership. "We have to have more leadership," Johnson said. "Right now, we might be the youngest group out there if you take the line, linebackers and the secondary. With Travis missing I know they are. But they still have to be the leaders on the field, because they are quarterbacking our defense."

Rouzie said that, although young, the linebacking corps does have something that even the 1992 national championship team didn't have—depth, which will make for stronger players through four quarters. "We were very fortunate in 1992," Rouzie said. "We didn't have much depth at linebacker, but we had really good front-line players. We have got a little more depth right now, and that makes a difference. You keep them fresh, play as many people as you can play and keep them fresh for that fourth quarter. That will win a ball game or two for you."

Johnson agreed that the depth will help to compete for a full game, alleviate the impact of potential injuries, and keep the team competitive. "It puts competition on the field for someone to keep their position and there's no

better motivator than competition," Johnson said. "If we lose one of them for two or three weeks, it won't be as devastating as it has been in the past." However, he said, "I don't think that any of our second-team players are playing on a level that we could play them and not lose something from the first-team players," he said.

Johnson said the linebacking corps has begun to take shape for the future, with a young core and growing talent to fit a changing philosophy for the coaching staff. "Over the years, we were playing a lot of man coverage and there were a lot of guys who were high school safeties who were being converted into our linebacker spots," Johnson said. "They were good players in what that philosophy was, but what we are doing now needs a bit more physical linebacker."

Rouzie, an assistant coach for four of Alabama's 12 national titles and coach of three All-America linebackers, said the newest edition of the Tide will be no different than other successful teams if they emphasize what he says should be their No. 1 goal following spring practice—to work together and build unity as well as muscle and cardiovascular strength.

"From a football standpoint, I would like to see them, the minute spring practice is over with get their butts in the weight room, building the oneness, and spending the time that is necessary to win a national championship," said Rouzie, a three-year letterman for Alabama from 1970-72. "You win in the off-season. We have got to come back in better shape than anybody else in the country. We have got to feel like we are in better shape. It's a mental thing. Great football teams have a lot of oneness, and our football team right now has more than it did when we started the spring, but we have to continually grow there. The team has to be on the same page and have the same goal. Our goal every year is to ultimately win the national championship. That's our mission. Based on speed and on want-to, our linebackers look like they can come together and be an excellent group. That's what you are looking for to win a national championship."

Rouzie said, "We went into the spring with a goal to be a more physical team defensively. Fundamentally we are trying to get to the point where we can play off of blockers, separate from blockers, and become a better tackling football team. We still have areas there to improve on, but the attitude has been good and I think we have shown some real progress."

Johnson agreed with the prognosis of the young team, and said he is looking to eliminate the youthful mistakes quickly.

"We make far too many mistakes," Johnson said. "We have simplified our system, and it has helped, but there has to be a certain amount of knowledge, checks, control and leadership that has to come from the linebacker corps. Right now, we are busting far too many responsibilities to be a real good consistent group, and that is the first thing that we need to improve on."

Improvements Are On The Way

by Kirk McNair

A number of needs being addressed in facilities plan

There are at least two myths about athletics facilities at The University of Alabama. One is that Alabama's football weight room is so inadequate that it is costing the Crimson Tide football recruits. The other is that Alabama has very good facilities overall. In both cases, the truth is something else.

Alabama does not have a football weight training room that attracts prospects, such as the legendary Nebraska facility. However, the complaints of Alabama team strength inadequacies in recent years, as chronicled by the likes of Head Coach Mike DuBose, are not entirely the fault of the facility. The weight room takes up a considerable amount of room in the football building and contains the most modern weight training equipment. Additionally, the weight room is staffed with a full complement of professionals, led by Terry Jones (who was selected by DuBose).

And while it would be difficult to find a football player at another school who said he

picked that school because its weight room was better than Alabama's, there is no question that Bama needs an enlarged and improved facility both for recruiting reasons and for the purpose for which a weight room exists: to make the players stronger.

In certain areas, Alabama has excellent facilities. Bryant-Denny Stadium is a crown jewel. Bama's new soccer facility was selected for the Southeastern Conference championships last fall. The softball stadium, being constructed near the University Recreation Center, will be among the nation's finest. Practice facilities for volleyball and gymnastics are exceptional.

However, for the most part Alabama's athletics facilities date from when Paul W. Bryant was director of athletics. Bryant, aided by Associate Athletics Director Sam Bailey, was in charge of building Coleman Coliseum, what became Sam Bailey Track Stadium, University Aquatic Center, Crimson Tide Tennis Stadium, and the second nine holes and the pro shop at University Golf Course. His successor, Ray Perkins, added the football building and the Hank Crisp Indoor Field (which includes indoor tennis courts). Practice areas for gymnastics and volleyball came under Hootie Ingram, while current Athletics Director Bob Bockrath has been in charge for the soccer field and softball stadium.

However, there is no question that the football weight training facility in particular and, with few exceptions, Alabama's athletics facilities in general need improvement.

It is Bockrath's duty to address these needs, and he is doing so.

The current project involves both the new softball stadium and contractors poised to attack Sewell-Thomas Baseball Stadium at the end of this season. Total cost of the projects is \$6.8 million, and both will be ready in time for the 2000 season.

As a part of the project, Sewell-Thomas, with a current seating capacity of 4,307, will add about 2,400 seats to about 6,700. The new softball stadium will have seating for 1,500.

Without playing the "What if?" game too much, in some ways it's regrettable that Bockrath elected not to pursue his original plan of building a new state-of-the-art baseball stadium (seating about 10,000) where the softball stadium is currently under construction and renovating the baseball stadium into a facility for women's softball.

An earlier plan for Sewell-Thomas called for the addition of a handful of sky-boxes, but that will not be a part of this renovation. There will be some work done on the current press box, and an elevator will be added to



With the exception of Bryant-Denny Stadium and the golf course, Alabama's athletics facilities have been centered at the Thomas Field and Coleman Coliseum. That will continue to be a hub of athletics practice and competition, but expanding and improving facilities means the athletics department will be moving into new areas for new venues.

Kent Gidley Photo

put the stadium in compliance for those with disabilities.

Primary construction will be down the right-field line. Permanent seats matching the current stadium will be added with the bleacher seats currently on that side moved to the left-field sidelines. Some of the most important work at Sewell-Thomas will be under the new right-field line seats. The area will include coaches' offices, a lockerroom, batting cages, additional restrooms for fans, and concession areas.

The actual playing surface of the field will also be renovated, re-graded, a new drainage system installed, and re-sodded. It is believed the field will be ready for fall practice.

Those attending the A-Day Game may have noticed that Bama's scoreboard did not have the JumboTron replay board operational. Indeed, a screen of black plastic covered the area where the modules make up the giant screen. Those modules, which are owned by the athletics department, have been on the road, and will continue moving this summer. Most weekends they are at the site of a NASCAR automobile race and the athletics department has made a nice piece of change on rental fees.

While not a part of this project, Bockrath has noted that the scoreboard at Sewell-Thomas "is nearing the end of its life ex-

pectancy" and suggested that in the not-too-distant future a new scoreboard with JumboTron capability might be in place at Sewell-Thomas with the modules moved from Bryant-Denny for baseball games.

Also not a part of the athletics department project, but a project of Alabama's baseball support group, the Grand Slammers, is putting padding on the entire outfield wall.

The women's softball field was intentionally spread over two seasons in order to give the actual playing surface an extra growing season.

The new softball stadium, which is visible from busy McFarland Boulevard, will be lighted. From an ample parking lot, spectators will enter the stadium at ground level and go down into the seats forming the amphitheater around the field.

Many believe that it is time to replace Alabama's 30-year-old Coleman Coliseum, but that's not going to happen anytime soon. "There are a number of reasons to keep Coleman Coliseum," Bockrath said. "For one, it is a very sound building structurally. It has a lot of room for offices. And it probably would cost about \$48 million to replace it."

The athletics director said, "We're going to

make it as modern as possible in an old structure. It's surprising how dynamic an old building can be when the architects work on it."

Much renovation has already been done. Many of the offices have been upgraded, including an impressive suite of men's basketball offices. The men's basketball lockerroom has been re-done and a new sound system was recently installed in the arena.

In the future, perhaps in a year, a new floor will be put down for basketball.

There is little doubt that the Alabama sport at the biggest competitive disadvantage because of facilities is golf. Although it is not through the athletics department, it appears The University will soon have upgraded facilities for men's and women's golf. If things work out as expected, The University will be involved in the construction of three golf courses, and one of those will be a championship layout that will be the Tide's home course.

The University is in negotiations with the Park and Recreation Authority of Tuscaloosa County to build two golf courses. One of those would be a championship course with the name University of Alabama Golf Club. The men's and women's teams would have access to the locker rooms.

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The course will be designed by former Tide golf star Jerry Pate. Pate, whose promising playing career (he won the U.S. Amateur and U.S. Open among many other events) was cut short by injury, has become one of the nation's leading golf course designers. Among his courses are Old Overton in Birmingham, Old Waverly (site of this year's U.S. Women's Open) in Mississippi, Kiva Dunes in Gulf Shores, Brewton Country Club, and Dancing Rabbit at Philadelphia, Mississippi.

The University is also working with University Clubs of America, which is constructing an upscale, championship course with Capstone Club and housing development near Vance. Although this would not be a home course for Alabama teams, it could be used by those teams for tournaments.

Harry Pritchett Golf Course (also known as University Golf Course) is the official facility for the golf teams, but both have been using the practice and playing facilities at Hidden Meadows Golf Course in Tuscaloosa in recent months.

Most listing Alabama sports in the order in which facilities upgrades were needed would put tennis pretty far down the list. The Tide has a six-court outdoor stadium and four courts indoors. Additionally, a dozen other courts in the area are available for faculty and student use.

However, those facilities are in spaces that might be better used otherwise. A tennis facility with indoor and outdoor courts near the University Recreation Center would free up the outdoor courts area for parking and the indoor courts in the Hank Crisp Indoor Facility, adjacent to the indoor football practice field, would provide space for far-and-away the nation's largest weight room. The current weight room could then be converted into an exceptional training room facility for all sports.

Parking in the Coleman Coliseum area is inadequate. On big basketball game nights spectators arriving too close to tip-off time can find themselves having to park blocks away, perhaps unable to find any place at all.

In addition to the possible parking room that would be made available by construction of a new tennis center, the track stadium land offers parking possibilities if a new track is constructed elsewhere. One of those "elsewhere" spots Bockrath is eyeing is already in use by the athletics department as the soccer field. "I'd like to build a track/soccer complex that would be utilized year-around," Bockrath said. The area inside the track would serve for field events during the spring track season, as the soccer field in the fall. "We don't know yet if it's feasible to build a stadium around the track and soccer field," Bockrath said.

If the track is moved, that area would make a good space for the large and growing Recreational Vehicle crowd, Bockrath said.

University Aquatics Center was a jewel when built in the 1970s. It has been upgrad-

ed in recent years. However, a new facility may be needed in future years. For several years an outdoor pool workout area has been on the "tentative plans" list.

While Bryant-Denny Stadium is an exceptional facility, it is also getting some up-grading. Immediately following the A-Day Game, tractors were poised to attack the playing surface. Just prior to the start of last season a large section of the Prescription Athletic Turf field had to be re-sodded. That's because of a continuing problem with the drains and pumps, features of the PAT fields that make for excellent footing regardless of rainfall. The drainage system will be replaced and/or repaired and the field re-sodded again this summer. Similar work was begun on two of the three football practice fields as spring practice came to a close.

Additionally, there will be four new sky-boxes added to 80 already in place at Bryant-Denny Stadium. These new sky-boxes will replace approximately an equal number of seats, so the seating capacity (currently 83,818) will not be dramatically altered.

There are no other expansion plans in place. Bockrath said that it is possible that more sky-boxes might be constructed one day. "I see a value to having a need for seating," he said. "We're in the 84,000-seat range and we're full every time we play. People are anxious to get tickets here and that makes our ticket important."

Bockrath has heard talk of a parking deck at the north end of the stadium, but that would be constructed by The University, not the athletics department. "It would be a nice addition for football Saturdays and would be valuable as University parking throughout the week," Bockrath said. He said speculation about a club level atop the deck, as at Vanderbilt, is not a likelihood if the parking deck is constructed.

One problem Alabama has had in upgrading athletics facilities is that there has been a moratorium on athletics fund-raising while The University's successful Capital Campaign was under way. Now on board is Bill Farley, who is in charge of athletics fund-raising.

Bockrath said University President Dr. Andrew Sorenson supports the plan to raise additional funds for athletics and that with that will come plans for improvements and additional facilities.

And speaking of money, as Alabama adds facilities, a Crimson Tide fan could probably work out a way to have a say in the name of that facility. It has been common in academic areas for many years for big donors to get their names on buildings. It has also been a common practice among many athletics departments (for instance, at Florida the football stadium is named for donor Ben Hill Griffin). Bama isn't advertising for donors for its facilities, but it's a good bet Bockrath would listen to a fan with the right number of zeroes on his check.

Alabama Off To A Good Start

by Kirk McNair &
Donna Fromme

Men's basketball and
other sports have success

It must be true, that saying about "The more one gets, the more one wants." Alabama Men's Basketball Coach Mark Gottfried has gotten a handful of excellent players to add to the Crimson Tide roster for next year. But Gottfried and his staff have hopes that before the May 15 deadline for spring signees that even more will be added.

Bama picked up four new players in the early signing period last November. Since the spring signing period got under way on April 7, Alabama has made a huge addition, one of the nation's top prospects. Schea Cotton, a 6-5 junior college All-America, selected the Crimson Tide over Rhode Island, Oregon State, UCLA and South Florida. Actually, he didn't pick Alabama so much as he picked Gottfried. Cotton had been through the recruiting process on several occasions before this year. For that reason, he elected to make his decision based solely on coaches he already knew. Hence the rather odd cast of finalists for his services.

Alabama's early signees were 6-8 Erwin Dudley of Uniontown R.C. Hatch High School, 6-7 Rod Grizzard of Birmingham Central Park Christian, 6-2 Terrance Meade of Scottsboro, and 6-10 Kenny Walker of Jacksonville, Florida, Wolfson.

Bama lost only four seniors from last year's team, so spring signees mean that a signee (or signees) is not academically eligible and/or that there will be additional attrition from the 1998-99 team.

Cotton, a native of Long Beach, California, is a 1997 graduate of St. John Bosco High School, though he also attended Mater Dei high school in Santa Ana, California for one season, his freshman year, where he was named California's state freshman of the year. He was featured in *Sports Illustrated* as a 14-year-old because of his young talent.

Cotton was the California Independent Federation's Player of the Year as a sophomore. He averaged 25 points a game the following year as a junior. He was rated one of the top 10 prep seniors in the country in 1997 as he was a rare junior member of the *Parade* All-America first team. He missed his senior season with a shoulder injury, but was still a highly-regarded prospect.

Cotton will transfer to Alabama from Long Beach City College in California where he



Schea Cotton

averaged 25.8 points and 5.8 rebounds per game and led his team to a 33-3 overall record this past season. He scored 30 or more points seven times last season before an injury sidelined him for the final 10 games of the season.

A variety of circumstances have contributed to Cotton's long road from high school star to Alabama signee. He originally planned to play with his brother, James (now in the NBA) at Long Beach State, and signed with Long Beach State following his prep career. However, later that season James elected to leave college early and enter the NBA draft. Schea asked for and received permission to cancel his signing with Long Beach State and signed with UCLA. However, he was ruled academically ineligible. Therefore, he attended St. Thomas More Prep School in Connecticut in 1998. After that season he signed with North Carolina State, but the NCAA Clearinghouse again ruled him ineligible. He entered Long Beach City College. Meanwhile, the NCAA found an error on its part and so Cotton was free to transfer to a major college after just one year of junior college and be immediately eligible.

He will come into school at Alabama as a sophomore and have three seasons of eligibility.

"I chose Alabama in the end for several reasons including the University's tradition and the Southeastern Conference," said the 215-pound guard/forward. "I was welcomed in and felt welcome by the team and the faculty members on my visit there. I liked the interaction between the coaches and the players. The coaching staff made me welcome, and I admired the manner in which they handled my recruiting. My relationship

with Coach (Mark) Gottfried and his stability was also a factor. He is a genuine and honorable man and is very positive.

He added, "The food is great there! And I was impressed by their academics program. The academic advisors were very thorough and knowledgeable in regard to my major. The people I met on my visit from around the community embraced me and made me feel at home. And I was impressed by a statement that was made to me by one of the seniors that expressed how he wished that he had more time to spend at Alabama under Coach Gottfried. My family's interaction with Coach Gottfried, Coach (Tom) Kelsey and Coach (Robert) Scott was a reason. They were very down to earth and funny. And, I guess my last reason is I like the sound of 'Roll Tide Roll.' I look forward to helping the Crimson Tide compete for a national title."

"We're excited to have Schea Cotton join us at Alabama," said Crimson Tide head coach Mark Gottfried who just celebrated his first anniversary as Alabama's head coach on March 25. "I've known his family for seven or eight years now. We recruited his older brother at UCLA when I was an assistant there. Schea is a fun and exciting player to watch. And he's anxious to play. He wants to play Division I ball. He's ready to play, and he's hungry to play. I think he's going to come in and help Alabama win."

"He's a good player. He can play on the perimeter. He can score. He's explosive, strong and quick. If you look at our team, we're losing a lot of scoring with (1999 seniors) Brian (Williams) and Chris (Rollins) on the perimeter. Schea is going to help us there," said Gottfried. "He has the potential to make an impact. There's no question. We lost a lot of our scoring with the graduation of our four seniors. This team needs somebody to step in and make baskets, and I think he can do that."

Alabama is also involved with at least three other players, two guards and an inside player. One of those guards is a player who most expected to sign with the Crimson Tide last fall, but who is now involved in an emotional decision.

Reportedly, junior college All-America guard Antonio Jackson is torn between Alabama and a most unlikely competitor, Missouri-Kansas City. However, the extenuating circumstance is that Jackson's junior college coach, Steve Eck, is the new head coach at Missouri-Kansas City. Jackson starred for Eck at Butler County Community College in Kansas. Before that he was a prep star for one of the state of Alabama's top coaches, Jack Doss, at Huntsville Butler.

Earlier it had been believed that Alabama's

primary competition for Jackson would come from the likes of Kentucky, Kansas, Connecticut and Mississippi State.

He is ranked the number one junior college prospect in the nation by *The Sporting News* and was recently named most valuable player in his conference for this season.

Alabama is also after guard Derrick Zimmerman, a 6-3, 180-pound point guard from Wossman High School in Monroe, Louisiana, where he played for his father. Although he is frequently listed as leaning to Alabama, he continues to consider a long list of schools. He was recently named 4A Player of the Year in Louisiana.

Alabama's other top prospect in the spring signing period is Marcus Haislip, a 6-9 center from Marshall County High School in Lewisburg, Tennessee. Haislip was not getting much attention until after he passed his SAT. He had a very good visit to Alabama earlier this spring and he reportedly has visited Tennessee and Memphis. However, Alabama's top competition is Kentucky. It is not known if the Wildcats will offer Haislip, but Kentucky Coach Tubby Smith did visit Haislip. He averaged 20 points, 9 rebounds, and 4 blocked shots per game for Coach Ray Steely.

Alabama had also been heavily involved with another top star until late in the signing period. However, Larry Scott, a 6-7 forward from California who is at St. James Prep in Maryland, signed with Texas A&M, selecting the Aggies over Alabama and Providence.

While Cotton, Jackson, Zimmerman, Haislip and Scott have been the prospects most identified with Alabama's spring recruiting effort, there are other men's basketball prospects who have been linked with the Crimson Tide.

Tyrone Hayes is a 6-4 guard at Augusta, Georgia, who is reported to be interested in Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, Providence and College of Charleston. Corey Hughes is a 6-4, 195-pound swing guard at Coffee High School in Florence. Many expect Hughes to attend prep school for a year before beginning college. One of the nation's top junior college guards, 6-4 Tiki Maddox, has been listed by some recruiting services as considering Alabama.

Rick Moody, Alabama's women's basketball coach, has some rebuilding to do this year, and he's made an excellent start. For the second time he has signed Yalika "Boo" Barnes, one of the nation's top players.

Barnes, who signed with Alabama out of Carver High School in Montgomery in 1997, will finally reach her goal of playing for the Crimson Tide next season. She signed with Bama this spring after completing her two-year career at Trinity Valley Community College in Texas.

Barnes, a 5-9 guard from Montgomery, was one of the top prep recruits in Alabama in

1997. She garnered 6A Metro Player of the Year honors as a senior while leading Carver to the state tournament semifinals. Following her stellar prep career, Barnes took her 20.9 points and 10.2 rebounds a game to Trinity Valley in Athens, Texas. She led the team to a junior college national championship this season while being named National Junior College Player of the Year.

She becomes the fourth junior college player of the year in the last five seasons to continue her playing careers at Alabama. She joins the group that includes current Tide player Kaunda Williams (1998) as well as former Tide standouts and former Trinity Valley players Shalonda Enis (1995) and Tausha Mills (1996).

Barnes becomes the fourth player to ink with the Crimson Tide during the spring signing period. She joins Taquilla Allen, Alana Sinyard, Leigh Papisan and November signee Ferris Peters as newcomers for Alabama next fall.

The other three spring signees were also from Alabama. They include a junior college standout and a pair of prep stars. Peters, a 6-2 center, is from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

"Our first priority is to sign players that will help the program keep moving forward," said Moody. "We have had a nice run of success over the last eight years and I feel like these players fit the mold for what we needed to keep the run going."

Allen, a 5-9 guard from Hueytown, spent the past two seasons at Northwest Shoals Community College in Muscle Shoals. A standout perimeter player, Allen has helped keep Shoals one of the most successful junior college programs in the state.

Papisan, a 6-1 forward from Hoover High, was a 6A all-state selection as a prep senior. Named the Metro Player of the Year by *The Birmingham News*, she was selected to participate in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star game.

Sinyard, a 5-11 guard from Rogersville, was a two time 3A Player of the Year at Lauderdale County High School. She guided her prep squad to a 93-6 record that included the state title in 1998. A first team 3A All-State selection, she will also play in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star game.

Women's golf coach Betty Palmer announced the signing of Jenny Bouvin. Bouvin, a native of Kungälv, Sweden, joins the Crimson Tide following a stellar prep career at Klippan High School. Klippan is one of the top golf academies in Sweden.

"I am very excited to be adding a player of this caliber to our program," said Palmer. "Jenny was on the Swedish junior national team, and will bring a wealth of tournament experience to our lineup next season. I look for her to make a big contribution to our program during her career."

A member of the Kungälv-Kode Golf Club,

Bouvin joins a list of former Tiders from Sweden, including All-SEC first team selection Sofia Grönberg (1987), NCAA Tournament qualifier Mikki Bjuro, Johanna Swärd and a pair of graduating seniors this year in Theres Svedin and Linda Sorensen.

Alabama's men's and women's track teams have added several standouts to their rosters. Men's Coach Harvey Glance added three and Women's Coach Sandy Fowler added four. There is still a possibility that others can sign with the Crimson Tide. The final day for track athletes to sign is August 1.

The three additions to the men's roster are Chris Mutai, Dusty Lane and Brad Teeple.

Mutai transfers to Alabama from Jacksonville (Florida) University. Mutai, a native of Kapsabet, Kenya, finished second behind Alabama's All-America Tim Broe at the 1997 NCAA South Region Cross Country Championships. Mutai also earned All-America honors in the 5,000-meter run during his career at Jacksonville. Glance noted the addition of Mutai "puts us in a great position to be one of the top ten cross country programs in the country next year."

Dusty Lane attended the same junior college as Olympian and World Record holder Dan O'Brien. Lane, who attended Spokane Community College, recently broke O'Brien's school record in the decathlon. He is currently the top junior college decathlete in the country. Glance said he would also help in the 400-meter dash and hurdles and in relay events.

Brad Teeple, a native of Sturgis, Michigan, was ranked fifth in the United States during the indoor season in the pole vault. He was a state champion in the decathlon and an all-state swimmer during his junior year at Sturgis High School.

The women's team added Birgitte Evans, Bobbette Stewart, Dawn Boggs and Katie Kelly.

Evans, a native of Taumarunui, King Country, New Zealand, has been the top junior thrower in her native country for the past three years. She will compete in the hammer and discus throws for the Tide next season.

Stewart attended Central Arizona Community College. That is the same institution that current Crimson Tider Peta-Gay Barrett attended. Both ladies are natives of Jamaica. Stewart is a national class distance runner. She finished fourth last year at the Cross Country Championships. Stewart will compete for the Tide in cross country, and the 800 and 1,500 meter runs.

Boggs attended Columbus East High School in Columbus, Indiana. She is another strong addition to the cross country team. Boggs will compete in the middle distance and distance races for the Tide.

Kelly attended Chattahoochee High School in Alpharetta, Georgia. She is also an outstanding distance runner.

Signing Day 2000 Work Under Way

by James Edwards

If it seems as if football recruiting never ends, that's because it doesn't, if done right

Football recruiting, says the adage, is like shaving. If you don't do it every day, you're a bum. And while it's a long time until the February signing date for the year 2000 additions, the recruiting work is an on-going project. May is an evaluation month, when coaches will hit the road to visit with high school coaches and guidance counselors.

In the meantime, Crimson Tide coaches have had an opportunity to meet with some potential prospects. That's because spring practice is a time for high school players and coaches to make visits to college campuses. And that's particularly true in the case of the spring football games.

Alabama had its annual A-Day Game April 17. Bama's crowd of 32,500 was the largest of any crowd for a football spring game in the Southeastern Conference. And it is likely that Alabama had as many upcoming high school seniors on campus as any other school. A reliable source said Alabama invited about 650 players from around the

Southeast to attend the A-Day Game. It's not always practical for a player to make such a visit, but even so Bama reportedly had about 250 who took advantage of the opportunity to watch the Crimson and White Game, see Bryant-Denny Stadium (including the A-Club and Scholarship rooms), tour the campus, and meet with Tide coaches and players.

Among the upcoming high school seniors who were spotted at A-Day were:

Linebacker John Andrews, 6-1, 220, 4.5 (in the 40-yard dash), Atlanta (Georgia) Douglass; offensive lineman Jeremy Batiste, 6-4, 255, 5.3, Moss Point, Mississippi; offensive tackle Wesley Britt, 6-8, 288, 5.1, Cullman; defensive tackle Anthony Bryant, 6-4, 312, 4.8, Newbern Sunshine; defensive end Bo Clark, 6-5, 245, 4.7, Leesburg (Georgia) Lee County; quarterback Scott Crouch, 6-4, 218, 4.8, Navarre, Florida; quarterback Will Davis, 6-0, 190, 4.7, Mountain Brook; offensive tackle Andy Galloway, 6-5, 265, 5.1, Dothan; defensive end Shaka Hill, 6-3, 249, 4.6, Madison

(Tennessee) Goodpasture; cornerback Ronald McClendon, 5-9, 180, 4.25, Ponchatoula, Louisiana; linebacker Chance Moyer, 6-3, 231, 4.75, Northport Tuscaloosa County; linebacker Tyler Satterthwaite, 6-2, 225, 4.65, Shreveport (Louisiana) Evangel Christian; linebacker Mayo Sowell, 6-2, 225, 4.5, Birmingham Shades Valley; tight end Jimmy St. Louis, 6-5, 244, 4.63, Cullman; offensive tackle Rich Trucks, 6-7, 325, 5.3, Hoover; defensive tackle Mac Tyler, 6-6, 305, 4.8, Bessemer Jess Lanier; defensive lineman Brad West, 6-3, 270, 4.8, Gurley Madison County; and defensive tackle Pat Winn, 6-4, 300, 4.7, Holt.

While the A-Day game is the final horn for spring practice, it is also the starting gun for coaches to start preparing for the upcoming football camps and the May evaluation period. Last year's camps proved very successful and the numbers are expected to be even greater this year.

Last year's Alabama football camps had the

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likes of Antonio Carter, Jarret Johnson, Kenny King, Matt Lomax, David Paine, Jeremy Walker, Casey Gilbert, Terris Martin, Brandon Greer, and Tyler Harris in attendance. Each of these players eventually signed with Alabama, an indication of just how important a successful camp is to a major college program. The task of getting players to attend camp is challenging. Most give Tide Recruiting Coordinator Ronnie Cottrell the lion's share of the credit for bringing in bona fide prospects to Alabama's camp.

There have been reports of players who are already preparing to showcase their ability at the Alabama football camp in hopes of catching the eye of the coaching staff.

Several of those at A-Day are also signed up for the early June Alabama football camp. They include defensive tackle Anthony Bryant of Newbern, defensive tackle Brad West of Gurley, offensive tackle Wesley Britt of Cullman, tight end Jimmy St. Louis of Cullman, quarterback Scott Crouch of Navarre, Florida, linebacker Chance Moyer of Northport, and linebacker John Andrews of Atlanta.

Rumored names of some other prospects who could be attending the Alabama camp are:

Running back Carlos Andrews, 6-0, 205, 4.5, Tallahassee (Florida) Godby; strong safety Yohance Buchanan (Tide split end Shamari's brother), 6-0, 200, 4.5, Atlanta Douglass; offensive tackle Wesley Clardy, 6-4, 285, 5.2, Lester West Limestone; wide receiver Tarry Givens, 6-4, 200, 4.5, Tallahassee (Florida) Godby; cornerback Matt Jackson, 5-11, 175, 4.39, Live Oak (Florida) Suwannee; strong safety Harold James, 6-0, 215, 4.5, Osceola, Arkansas; offensive tackle Nick Johnson, 6-5, 300, 5.2, Loganville, Georgia; linebacker Spencer Johnson, 6-3, 235, 4.75, Silas Southern Choctaw; nose guard Josh Mitchell, 6-1, 300, 5.0, Hawthorne, Florida; cornerback Bo Mosley, 5-10, 165, 4.5, Osceola, Arkansas; free safety Tre Orr, 6-2, 190, 4.4, Lake City (Florida) Columbia; quarterback Philip Rivers, 6-5, 210, 4.8, Athens; cornerback Mario Stanley, 5-9, 175, 4.5, Athens;

The June camps are important, but the month of May is one of the most important in recruiting. That is when the college coaches make their annual trips to the high schools across the country. It is those visits that sometimes set the tone for the eventual recruiting of individual players. Most senior players have already been identified and have already been receiving recruit-



Zac Kaye

ing letters from different schools since as early as their freshman or sophomore years.

May is not a contact month. A visiting coach in a school does not have contact with a prospect. But in most schools it is common knowledge when a college coach is visiting. The college coach is there to talk to the high school coaches, get a copy of the transcript of each prospect, and pick up videotape of games in which the prospect has performed for the college staff to evaluate.

Although the May schedule is a hectic one for the college coaches, in many cases the assistant coaches will drop in at schools where there are no prospects for the upcoming year, but where there will be later. These are good will visits with high school coaches. While Alabama's coaches will visit in schools throughout the South, the emphasis of these good will visits is in the state of Alabama.

Alabama's coaches are assigned recruiting areas and the Tide staffers will be active in those areas in May. Some of those visits will be as close as a couple of blocks from the Alabama Football Building, to Central High School where Zac Kaye is one of the nation's top place-kicking prospects or Tuscaloosa County where Chance Moyer is a top linebacker to as far away as South Florida.

The following list of top prospects in Alabama and around the Southeast includes some who almost certainly are on the Crimson Tide's list to evaluate and/or recruit. However, there almost certainly are others the Bama coaches are aware of. And the recruiting list will continue to change as prospects develop or fall behind athletically and academically.

Football Prospects In Alabama And The Southeast

Alabama

Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	40-time	Hometown	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	40-time	Hometown
Travis Barber	OL	6-4	300	5.00	Gurley	Myron Powe	OL	6-5	305	4.97	Camden
Wesley Britt	OL	6-8	288	5.10	Cullman	Philip Rivers	QB	6-5	210	4.80	Athens
Anthony Bryant	DT	6-4	312	4.80	Newbern	Richard Sloane	DT	6-5	270	4.85	Prichard
Travis Bucher	OL	6-4	250	4.85	Huntsville	Gary Smith	OL	6-4	270	5.10	Huntsville
Wesley Clardy	OL	6-4	285	5.20	Lester	Erwin Snell	OL	6-5	275	4.95	Dothan
Kevin Davidson	LB	6-3	215	4.50	Cherokee	Mayo Sowell	LB	6-2	225	4.50	Birmingham
Derrick Davis	LB	6-3	215	4.50	Daleville	Mario Stanley	CB	5-9	175	4.50	Athens
Will Davis	QB	6-0	190	4.70	Mountain Brook	David Stewart	DT	6-7	272	4.89	Moulton
Andy Galloway	OL	6-5	265	5.10	Dothan	Jimmy St Louis	TE	6-5	244	4.63	Cullman
Lynorse Garrett	TE	6-5	225	4.75	Cottonwood	T. J. Sullivan	RB	5-10	210	4.50	New Hope
Derrick Graves	RB	6-2	205	4.40	Holt	Darrius Taylor	SS	6-1	200	4.40	Cherokee
Brian Hankins	RB	5-9	175	4.50	Jasper	Bobby Thomas	OL	6-2	270	4.87	Seale
Larry Howell	WR	6-3	185	4.60	Prichard	Rich Trucks	OL	6-7	325	5.30	Hoover
Spencer Johnson	LB	6-3	235	4.75	Silas	Franklin Turner	DE	6-3	250	4.80	Mobile
Zac Kaye	PK	5-8	168	4.70	Tuscaloosa	Mac Tyler	DT	6-6	305	4.80	Bessemer
Corey Larkins	CB	5-9	172	4.40	Opelika	Brad West	DT	6-3	270	4.80	Gurley
Triandos Luke	WR	6-0	180	4.57	Phenix City	Derrick Williams	OL	6-5	310	4.80	Camden
Alfred Malone	DT	6-5	260	4.80	Frisco City	Neika Willis	CB	5-9	180	4.56	Loachapoka
Chance Moyer	LB	6-3	231	4.75	Northport	Pat Winn	DT	6-4	300	4.70	Holt
Antwan Odom	DE	6-6	255	4.65	Irvington	Kevin Worthy	LB	6-2	240	4.70	Attalla
Alex Palmer	OL	6-4	275	5.10	Huntsville						

Southeast

Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	40-time	Hometown	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	40-time	Hometown
Harold James	SS	6-0	215	4.50	Osceola, Ark.	Hobie Holliday	LB	6-4	225	4.60	Warner Robins, Ga.
Bo Mosley	CB	5-10	165	4.50	Osceola, Ark.	John Andrews	LB	6-1	220	4.50	Atlanta, Ga.
Scott Crouch	QB	6-4	218	4.80	Navarre, Fla.	Yohance Buchanan	SS	6-0	200	4.50	Atlanta, Ga.
Derrick Crudup	QB	6-3	180	4.65	Deerfield Bch, Fla.	Wesley Heath	FS	6-1	190	4.40	Marietta, Ga.
Willie Green	RB	5-10	195	4.40	Kissimmee, Fla.	Alex Godfrey	CB	5-9	180	4.50	Valdosta, Ga.
Chad Mascoc	LB	6-3	222	4.50	Kissimmee, Fla.	Devery Henderson	Ath	6-1	185	4.31	Opelousas, La.
Clenton Crossley	RB	5-10	206	4.39	Bushnell, Fla.	Troy Stackhouse	RB	5-10	205	4.45	Marrero, La.
Bryan McKelvey	LB	6-3	215	4.60	Deltona, Fla.	Ronald McClendon	CB	5-9	180	4.25	Ponchatoula, La.
Chad Clark	WR	6-4	210	4.45	Ft. Meade, Fla.	DeShawn Carter	CB	6-1	190	4.40	Ponchatoula, La.
Joey Knowles	OL	6-3	330	5.10	Hilliard, Fla.	Terrell Walker	WR	6-3	185	4.40	New Orleans, La.
Ernest Smith	OL	6-4	310	5.20	Jacksonville, Fla.	Roy Williams	WR	6-3	180	4.50	Reserve, La.
Roderick Eason	OL	6-6	291	5.10	Jacksonville, Fla.	Jeremy Parquet	OL	6-7	287	5.10	Destrehan, La.
Matt Jackson	CB	5-11	175	4.39	Live Oak, Fla.	Tyler Satterthwaite	LB	6-2	225	4.65	Shreveport, La.
Jonathan Colon	OL	6-7	280	5.23	Miami, Fla.	Shyrone Carey	Ath	5-8	165	4.35	Marrero, La.
Willis McGahee	RB	6-1	213	4.40	Miami, Fla.	Jason Campbell	QB	6-5	185	4.75	Taylorsville, Miss.
Roy Altman	QB	6-3	180	4.75	Miami, Fla.	Chris Young	Ath	6-2	184	4.50	Batesville, Miss.
Carlos Joseph	OL	6-6	298	4.90	Miami, Fla.	Sherron Moore	RB	6-0	195	4.40	Calhoun City, Miss.
David Coleman	LB	6-1	210	4.60	Miami, Fla.	Cornelius Wortham	FS	6-2	190	4.41	Calhoun City, Miss.
Willie Roberts	TE	6-7	225	4.60	Miami, Fla.	Ryan Lee	OL	6-6	290	5.10	Carriere, Miss.
Max Starks	OL	6-8	345	5.10	Orlando, Fla.	Doug Buckles	OL	6-6	275	5.00	Madison, Miss.
Ronnie Thomas	WR	5-10	180	4.40	Quincy, Fla.	Daniel Booth	DE	6-5	245	4.80	Amory, Miss.
Leroy Smith	CB	5-11	170	4.30	Quincy, Fla.	Marvin Vaughn	RB	5-10	190	4.52	Jackson, Miss.
Jared Clark	QB	6-4	230	4.60	Sarasota, Fla.	Jeremy Batiste	OL	6-4	255	5.30	Moss Point, Miss.
Ashley Pettigrew	OL	6-4	328	5.30	Tallahassee, Fla.	Jason Clark	LB	6-3	235	4.60	Starkville, Miss.
Shannon Snell	OL	6-5	300	5.50	Tampa, Fla.	Robert Spivey	LB	6-3	215	4.50	Clarksdale, Miss.
Brennis Smith	DT	6-5	265	4.85	Vernon, Fla.	Jadice Moore	OL	6-4	270	4.90	Port Gibson, Miss.
Carlos Andrews	RB	6-0	205	4.50	Tallahassee, Fla.	Ray Ray Bivens	Ath	6-0	170	4.50	Gautier, Miss.
Tarry Givens	WR	6-4	200	4.50	Tallahassee, Fla.	Charlie Myles	NG	6-2	235	4.80	Pascagoula, Miss.
Eric Moore	LB	6-4	220	4.55	Pahokee, Fla.	Jimmy Williams	DT	6-3	302	4.90	Memphis, Tenn.
Tre Orr	FS	6-2	190	4.40	Lake City, Fla.	Albert Means	DT	6-5	290	4.80	Memphis, Tenn.
Antwan Andrews	RB	6-1	205	4.50	Brunswick, Ga.	Ahmad Childress	OL	6-6	304	5.00	Nashville, Tenn.
Dondrial Pinkins	QB	6-3	21	5 4.65	Camilla, Ga.	Mondre Dickerson	DE	6-6	255	4.65	Memphis, Tenn.
Karl Walker	RB	6-0	215	4.50	Valdosta, Ga.	Antwoine Lias	WR	6-2	190	4.50	Memphis, Tenn.
Kelvin Knight	WR	6-1	180	4.50	Lithonia, Ga.	Dwayne Robinson	DT	6-3	290	5.00	Memphis, Tenn.
Andre Zellner	TE	6-4	240	4.65	Forsyth, Ga.	Anthony Stevenson	RB	6-0	210	4.50	Memphis, Tenn.
Terrance Pearson	WR	6-1	175	4.35	Columbus, Ga.	Demetrius Fields	RB	5-11	170	4.40	Cleveland, Tenn.
Maurice Mitchell	DT	6-6	292	4.90	Albany, Ga.	Shaka Hill	DE	6-3	249	4.60	Madison, Tenn.
Sean Young	OL	6-6	275	5.10	Tunnel Hill, Ga.	Jessie Chesterfield	RB	5-11	185	4.50	Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Nick Johnson	OL	6-5	300	5.20	Loganville, Ga.	Leonard Burress	CB	6-0	180	4.40	Memphis, Tenn.
Bo Clark	DE	6-5	245	4.70	Leesburg, Ga.						

BAMA SCORECARD

Marsh On NCAA Infractions Committee

Alabama's Gene Marsh is going on to the NCAA Infractions Committee. Marsh, professor of law at The University and faculty athletics representative, has been selected to a three-year term on the eight-member committee. Marsh is one of two new members and is the only representative from a Southeastern Conference school.

A member of Alabama's faculty since 1981, Marsh has held appointments both in the School of Law and in the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration. He also served as director of The University Honors Program, 1989-93. He is a *summa cum laude* graduate with Bachelor's and Master's degrees from The Ohio State University and the Juris Doctorate degree from Washington & Lee.

Infractions Committee members may be appointed for a total of three terms, a maximum of nine years. Among those whose terms ended this year was Chairman David Swank.

Schedule Changes

There have been changes in Alabama's future football schedules from those previously announced insofar as the games in 2000 and 2001 with UCLA. In both years, the UCLA game has been moved to the season-opener. In 2000 Alabama and UCLA will meet on September 2 in Pasadena. That gives Bama an open date on October 7, when the game was originally scheduled. It's the only open date of the year. In 2001 UCLA and Alabama will open the season in Tuscaloosa on September 1. That schedule is not complete. Southern Miss is the other non-conference game that year, but the official schedule lists October 6 (when UCLA had originally been scheduled) as "To Be Determined." That 11th game could also be placed on October 27 when Alabama has an open date.

Additionally, Bill Lumpkin, columnist for the *Birmingham Post-Herald*, pointed out that Alabama may have one less game in its Birmingham future than had previously been thought. When Athletics Director Bob Bockrath negotiated the Tide's big games out of Legion Field earlier this year, he left a handful of conference games in Birmingham over the next few years. But one of those games is Central Florida on October 28, 2000. That's the date of the Magic City Classic, the annual Alabama State-Alabama A&M game that is Legion Field's longest-running series. The last time Bama had a game scheduled on the Magic City Classic date was in 1995, and the Tide moved that game against North Texas to Tuscaloosa.

Hannah In Hall

If all-time Alabama great John Hannah had played football at Notre Dame, there's little doubt he would have been selected for the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame years ago. However, that group has finally deemed Hannah, who earlier had been named to the Pro Football Hall of

Fame, worthy of induction. Hannah, a consensus All-America in 1972, started for the Crimson Tide for three years, 1970-72, at right guard. He also lettered in track and field as a shot put and discus man and as a heavyweight wrestler.

In 1981 *Sports Illustrated* called Hannah "the best offensive lineman of all time." The Albertville native, who went on to star for the New England Patriots in the NFL, was from an Alabama family. His father, Herb; uncle, Bill; and brothers, Charles and David, were all stars for the Crimson Tide.

Hannah becomes the 17th former Alabama player or head coach selected. He will be inducted in New York next December. Also joining the Hall of Fame for his career as a head coach at Virginia Tech, Maryland and Kentucky is Jerry Claiborne, who once served as an Alabama assistant coach.

Dixon Selected

Crimson Tide football player Tony Dixon, a junior from Reform, Alabama, was recently selected to attend the NCAA Foundation Leadership Conference May 31 through June 4 at Disney's Wide World of Sports in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Dixon will be among 300 diverse student-athletes from all NCAA member institutions who will participate in the leadership conference. "It was quite an honor to be chosen," Dixon said, "and I really look forward to meeting student-athletes from other NCAA schools. Plus, it will provide an opportunity to discuss and explore prevalent issues currently facing student-athletes." Alabama football player Thomas Hill participated in the conference last year.

And Stabler Can Throw

Is there no end to what Shaun Alexander can do? When Alabama hosted LSU in a baseball series that began the night before the A-Day Game, Shaun and his brother, Duran, a graduate of Notre Dame, sang the National Anthem. Completing the pre-game ceremonies, Ken "Snake" Stabler, who was well known as a college baseball pitcher as well as quarterback in his days at Bama in the mid-1960s, threw out the first pitch.

Parade All-America

It's no secret that the top basketball prospect in Alabama this year was Marvin Stone of Huntsville, who signed with Kentucky. And so it was no surprise when *Parade* magazine's prep All-America listings came out with Stone a first team All-America. But Alabama signee Rod Grizzard of Central Park Christian in Birmingham was also an honoree, named to the *Parade* fourth team. Earlier this year Grizzard had been named the most valuable player in the greater Birmingham area by the *Post-Herald* and a consensus all-state selection.

Baseball Records

Alabama continues to re-write the baseball record book. Perhaps the most surprising school mark to fall this year came when Bama

tied the NCAA record with 13 home runs in its 30-4 win at Alabama-Birmingham on April 14. The 13 homers equalled the mark set by Cal State Northridge vs. Fresno State in 1996. Eight different players homered for the Crimson Tide, including seven of the nine starters. Bama homered in six of the nine innings, including a school record-tying four home runs in an 11-run seventh inning. Andy Phillips had three homers and eight runs batted in while Brent Boyd, Sam Bozanich and Jeremy Brown had two homers each.

Earlier this year Phillips had been part of another remarkable feat. In Alabama's long baseball history, only one player had ever hit for the cycle before this year. Frank Menechino had a single, double, triple and home run vs. South Alabama in 1993. Then on March 9, Bama's Darren Wood became the second Alabama player to hit for the cycle. Two weeks later, March 23, Phillips managed the feat with a single, double, triple and two home runs in Bama's 27-5 win over Kansas State.

Phillips has a legitimate shot at owning nine Tide records when his Alabama career ends at the close of this season. He already has the career record for runs batted in at 200 going into the series against Arkansas the weekend of April 23 and in that series hit his Bama record 50th home run. He is also within striking distance for games played, at-bats, runs, hits, and total bases, in which he is currently second; triples, in which he is third (but just two behind teammate G.W. Keller, who is first with 12); and doubles (he has 50, which is in fourth place and 14 behind David Magadan).

In the win over Kansas State, Phillips went 5-for-6 with a career high seven runs batted in. The five hits tied a single-game school record. He also tied school records for total bases (14) and most career five-hit games (three). Magadan also had three five-hit games.

Alabama tied its single game record with nine doubles against Kansas State. Alabama also had nine doubles against Auburn (1989) and Richmond (1995).

Gymnasts Third

Coach Sarah Patterson's gymnastics team, the youngest team in the NCAA Championships, finished third in this year's national championships at Salt Lake City, Utah. The Dogs of Georgia won their second straight championship with Michigan third. Bama freshman Andree Pickens finished tied for first in individual competition on the balance beam with a 9.9 score.

Pickens earned first team All-America in all-around, vault, bars, floor, and, of course, beam. Other All-America honorees for the Tide were Gwen Spidle on vault, Lissy Smith on beam, and Dara Steward second team on bars and floor exercise.

Williams Drafted

Brian Williams has completed his Alabama basketball career, but the high-scoring guard would like to continue to play the game. He was among the 96 players selected in the eight-round draft by the United States Basketball League on April 7. He was one of 12 SEC players drafted. Williams was a fourth-round and the 41st overall pick. He was drafted by the Atlanta Trojans.

Williams, who led Alabama with a 17.3 points per game average and leaves as the seventh all-time career scoring leader at Alabama, hasn't yet signed with Atlanta. He's been invited to some NBA tryouts and hopes to play at that level.

Johnny Dee

Johnny Dee, who was head basketball coach of Alabama's excellent Rocket 8 basketball team in the mid-1950s, died April 24 of cancer in Denver, Colorado. Dee, who had a law degree, had served as mayor of Denver after ending his basketball coaching career.

New Swim Coach

Don Wagner has been named head coach of Alabama's men's and women's swimming and diving teams.

Wagner comes to Alabama after a four year stint as head coach of the Texas A & M women's program. During his tenure, the Aggies produced six All-Americans and six individual Big-12 champions. In addition to its work in the pool, Texas A&M thrived in the classroom as well under Wagner's supervision. His charges earned 14 Academic All-Big 12 honors while four athletes took home Academic All-America accolades.

The 46-year-old Wagner replaces Chuck Horton who resigned in August to enter private business. Ed Reed, an assistant under Horton, served as interim head coach this season.

Swim Finish

For the second year in a row, diver Brent Roberts carried the Crimson Tide swimming and diving team on his shoulders to a top-25 finish at the NCAA Championships. Last season the Pensacola, Florida, native took the Tide to 25th place on the strength of an individual title on the platform. This season the senior finaled on all three boards, boosting the Tide to 22nd in the final standings.

Roberts finaled on the one-meter board, finishing seventh with 541.90 points. On the three-meter board, he again took seventh, scoring 580.25. And on the 10-meter platform, Roberts finished out a stellar collegiate career, with an eighth place, 772.20 point effort. He earned first team All-American honors on all three boards, giving him a career total of eight first team honors and three honorable mention All-America nods. Roberts was also the Tide's only scorer as a freshman, when he took UA to 30th place.

Aggies, Aggies Everywhere

If Alabama ever fields a team with players over the age of 50, the Crimson Tide will have the perfect person to manicure the fields. That's because the new Director of Athletic Grounds and Outdoor Facilities, Scott Urbantke, comes to Alabama from Greystone Golf Club in Birmingham. Greystone is the site of the annual Bruno's Memorial Classic and the Senior PGA Golf stars who trod those greens and fairways al-

ways give the course rave reviews.

Urbantke had been at Greystone for seven years, the last six as course superintendent. He is a 1988 graduate of Texas A&M, where he earned a degree in horticulture.

Women's Basketball Awards

Sophomore Reagan Croyle took home a pair of awards at the Alabama women's basketball team annual awards banquet. Reagan, the daughter of former Tide football star John Croyle, earned Scholar Athlete of the Year honors and the Dottie Kelso Inspiration Award. Croyle, who will retire from basketball after suffering a herniated disc this season, was also selected as the Paul Bryant Award winner for women's basketball. Seniors Dominique Canty and Latrish Jones were selected co-captains by their teammates for 1998-99. Junior walk-on Kari Belcher rounded out the list of award winners earning the Shelly Pyles' Hustle Award.

Volleyball Representative

Alabama sophomore volleyball player Kelly Fash will represent the Crimson Tide as a member of the United States team at the Sibillini International Volleyball Tournament this summer. The student-athletes will be divided into two teams and will play 10 matches in a two-week stretch. The competition is being held in the Italian mountain town of Communanza and will feature several top caliber club teams from around Europe.

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1999 Alabama Spring Sports Results

Baseball

Date	Opponent	Time
5	@ Houston	1
5	@ Houston 9 (11 inn.)	
2	@ Houston	6
3	Samford	1
3	Arkansas State	2
4	Arkansas State	8
13	Arkansas State	5
4	Troy State	2
5	Troy State	4
2	Cal-St.-Fuller.	5
5	Cal-St.-Fuller.	4
7	Cal-St.-Fuller.	6
6	Austin Peay	3
14	Niagara	3
19	Niagara	2
27	Niagara	0
5	Southern Miss	3
12	@ Tennessee	7
12	@ Tennessee	5
9	@ Tennessee	21
4	West Alabama	2
8	Georgia	2
4	Georgia	2
9	Georgia	8
27	Kansas State	5
9	Kansas State	8
4	@ Auburn	15
2	@ Auburn	10
10	@ Auburn	4
3	@ Jacksonville St.	5
3	Jacksonville St.	0
13	South Carolina	8
14	South Carolina	5
4	South Carolina	12
8	N'western State	6
6	@ Miss State	4
4	@ Miss State	5
9	@ Miss State	10
30	@ UAB	4
10	LSU	3
8	LSU	9
9	LSU	4
7	South Alabama	6
8	Arkansas	3
15	Arkansas	8
Apr. 25	Arkansas	2 p.m.
Apr. 28	UAB	7 p.m.
Apr. 30	@ Ole Miss	7 p.m.
May 1	@ Ole Miss	4 p.m.
May 2	@ Ole Miss	1:30 p.m.
May 7	Vanderbilt	7 p.m.
May 8	Vanderbilt	2 p.m.
May 9	Vanderbilt	2 p.m.
May 14	@ Florida	6 p.m.
May 15	@ Florida (SS)	2 p.m.
May 16	@ Florida	12:30 p.m.
May 19	SEC Tournament	
May 24	@ Hoover	
May 28	NCAA Regionals	
May 30	TBA	
June 4	NCAA Super Regionals	
June 5	TBA	
June 11	College World Series	
June 19	@ Omaha, Nebraska	

All times central

Softball

Date	Opponent	Time
6	Fiesta Bowl Classic @ Phoenix	
1	Long Beach State	1
1	Massachusetts	8
2	Maryland	3 (8 inn.)
1	Utah	2 (8 inn.)
0	California	2
1	New Mexico State	0
10	Texas Classic @ Austin	
7	Texas-San Antonio	2
0	Texas	1
0	Arizona	8
0	Texas	2
2	Bama Bash	
9	McNeese State	0
3	North Carolina	1
0	Evansville	2
2	Indiana	2
2	Drake	1
3	Speedline Classic @ Tampa	
6	Iowa	4
4	Florida A&M	1
2	South Carolina	5
2	Illinois-Chicago	5
7	Maryland	3
8	Chattanooga Invitational	
0	Winthrop	0
1	UCLA	1
0	Chattanooga	0
2	Jacksonville State	2
4-2	@ Arkansas	5-4
6-12	@ Arkansas	3-7
5-3	Kentucky	1-1
4-9	Tennessee	0-2
10-4	@ Centenary	0-0
1-7	Auburn	5-0
3-8	Auburn	1-3
5-7	Samford	0-1
4-2	@ Ole Miss	1-0
10-1	@ Ole Miss	2-3
2-6	Florida	1-1
7-5	Miss. State	8-4
6-7	Miss. State	5-4
Apr. 27	Troy State	5 p.m.
May 1	@ So. Carolina	Noon
May 2	@ Georgia (SS)	12:30 p.m.
May 7	@ LSU	5 p.m.
May 8	@ LSU	1 p.m.
May 13	SEC Tournament	
May 16	@ Columbus, Ga.	

All times central

Men's Outdoor Track

Date	Event
Mar. 25	Alabama Relays
Mar. 28	
Apr. 3	USOC Training @ San Diego, Calif.
Apr. 10	@ UTEP Invitational
Apr. 10	Sea Ray Relays @ Knoxville
Apr. 17	SEC Quadrangular @ Gainesville
Apr. 22	Penn Relays
Apr. 24	@ Philadelphia
May 1	Alabama Open
May 13	SEC Championships
May 16	@ Athens
June 2	NCAA Championships
June 5	@ Boise, Idaho

Men's Tennis

Date/UA	Opponent	Time/Opp.
7	Troy State	0
7	Georgia State	0
7	Southern Miss	0
1	@ Illinois	6
2	@ Northwestern	5
3	@ Vanderbilt	4
Feb. 18	National Team Indoor	
Feb. 20	@ Seattle	
6	UAB	1
4	@ Princeton	3
4	Tennessee	3
4	@ So. Carolina	3
3	@ Georgia	4
4	Ole Miss	3
1	Blue-Gray @ Montgomery	
1	Virginia	4
4	Wake Forest	1
4	Boise State	2
2	@ Kentucky	5
5	Auburn	2
7	Arkansas	0
6	@ BYU-Hawaii	1
5	@ Hawaii	2
1	@ Florida	6
1	LSU	6
2	Miss. State	5
	SEC Championships @ Gainesville	
4	Vanderbilt	2
3	Florida	2
0	Georgia	4
May 14	NCAA Regionals	
May 16	TBA	
May 22	NCAA Championships	
May 29	@ Athens	

Men's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
Feb. 18	John Burns	
Feb. 20	@ Honolulu	10 of 21
Feb. 28	Mercedes Invitational	
Mar. 1	@ Jacksonville	12 of 18
Mar. 3	Matlock Collegiate	
Mar. 5	@ Lakeland, Fla.	1 of 18
Mar. 19	Spring Invitational	
Mar. 21	@ Montgomery	11 of 18
Apr. 3	Cleveland Golf Inv.	
Apr. 4	@ Augusta, Ga.	9 of 19
Apr. 9	Billy Hitchcock	
Apr. 11	@ Auburn	9 of 12
Apr. 16	SEC Championships	
Apr. 18	@ Lexington	8th

Women's Outdoor Track

Date	Event
Mar. 20	Jamaican Relays @ Kingston, Jamaica
Mar. 20	@ Auburn Relays
Mar. 25	Alabama Relays
Mar. 28	
Apr. 2-3	@ Texas Relays
Apr. 10	@ UTEP Invitational
Apr. 17	SEC Quadrangular @ Gainesville

Women's Tennis


Date	Opponent	Time
8	Southern Miss	0
6	UAB	3
5	@ Georgia Tech	4
4	@ Auburn	5
Feb. 18	National Team Indoor	
Feb. 21	@ Madison, Wisc.	
2	Maryland	7
	@ Williamsburg, Va.	
1	@ Wm & Mary	8
0	Florida	9
0	Clemson	8
1	South Carolina	5
1	@ LSU	8
0	Tennessee	9
2	Vanderbilt	7
0	@ Southern Cal	9
3	@ Pepperdine	6
1	Arkansas	8
2	@ Georgia	7
2	Miss. State	7
1	@ Kentucky	8
2	Miami	7
0	@ Ole Miss	9
	SEC Championships @ Baton Rouge	
1	Vanderbilt	5

Women's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
Feb. 26	Florida Lady Gator	
Feb. 28	@ Gainesville	14 of 19
Mar. 12	LSU Fairwood	
Mar. 14	@ Baton Rouge	11 of 18
Mar. 26	South Carolina Inv.	
Mar. 28	@ Columbia	14 of 16
Apr. 2	Women's Southern	
Apr. 4	@ Athens, Ga.	12 of 18
Apr. 11	Cancelled Classic	
Apr. 12	@ Bent Brook	N/A
Apr. 16	SEC Championships	
Apr. 18	@ Auburn	9th
May 8	NCAA Regional	
May 10	@ Columbia, S.C.	
May 21	NCAA Championships	
May 24	@ Tulsa, Okla.	

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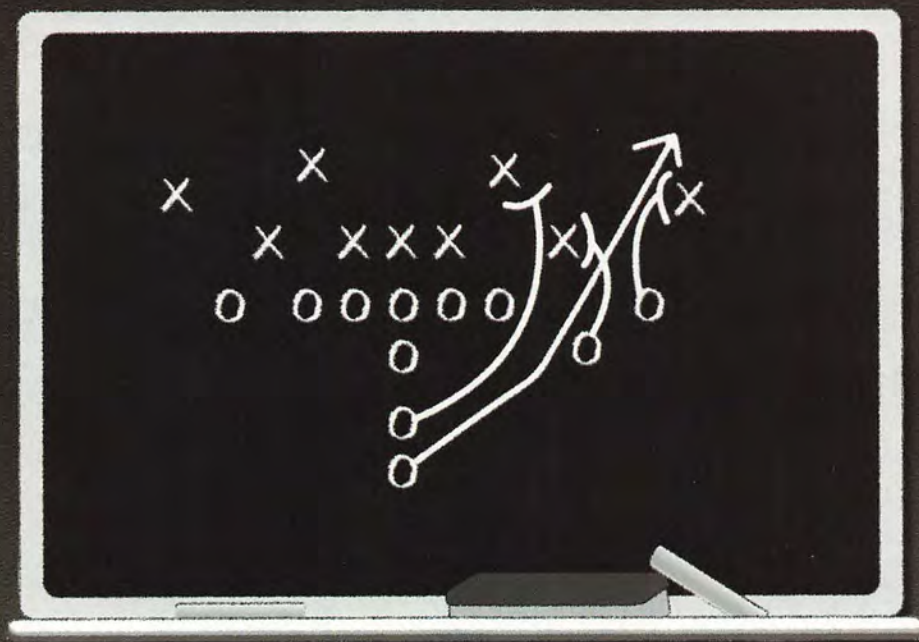


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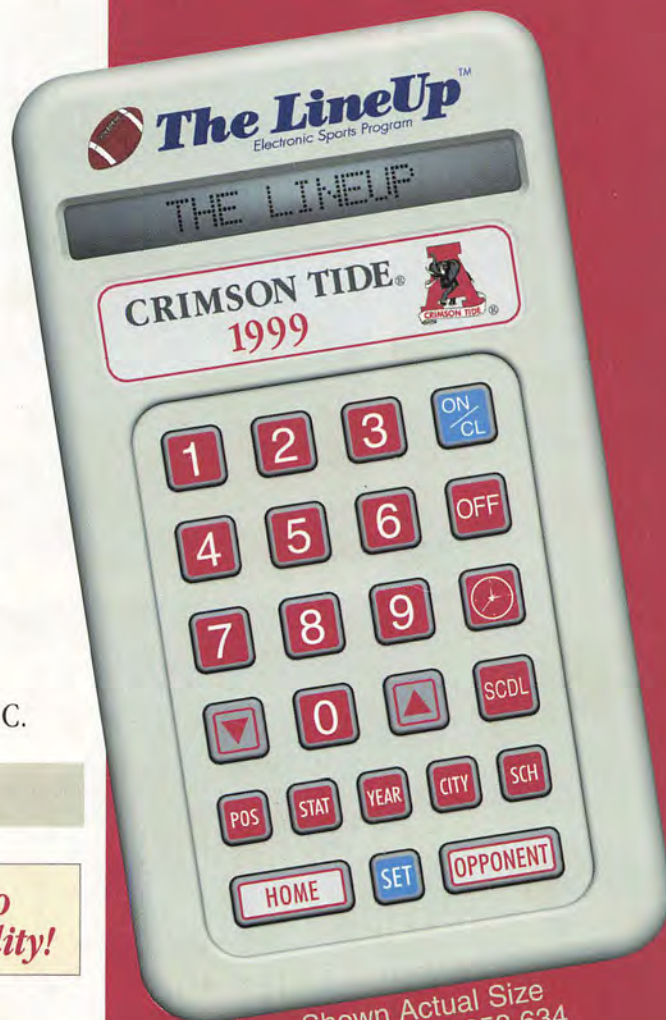
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